

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

JULY 2000

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Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

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Maine State Legislature
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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

- CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*..... House & Senate disagree; bill died
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
- EMERGENCY*..... Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*..... Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
- INDEF PP*..... Bill Indefinitely Postponed
- ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
- OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
- OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
- P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
- RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
- UNSIGNED*..... Bill held by Governor
- VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

Resolve 1999, chapter 129 provides one-time funds of \$200,000 for the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health to contract with a nonprofit organization to implement the recommendations contained in the report entitled "Women's Health: An Action Plan for Maine," prepared by Medical Care Development, Inc. in July 1999.

LD 2379

An Act to Establish a Comprehensive Electronic Claims-filing System for the Medicaid Program

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> AMERO		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-679
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LD 2379 proposed to prohibit the imposition of a processing fee or the restructuring of the reimbursement rate for electronically submitted claims for Medicaid pharmacy benefits. The bill proposed to establish a requirement that the Department of Human Services conduct a current cost-of-dispensing survey prior to any subsequent revisions to the dispensing fee.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-679) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to:

1. Provide a new title;
2. Require the Department of Human Services to develop and implement a comprehensive electronic claims-filing system available to all providers in the Medicaid program. The system would be funded with state and federal funds. The amendment proposed to require a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by January 2, 2002 on the pharmacy services study;
3. Require the Department of Human Services to conduct an in-depth study of pharmacy services prior to changing the dispensing fee for pharmacy service claims. This study would determine the full cost of filling a prescription and providing pharmacy services, including reasonable profits, in the Medicaid program, Cub Care program, elderly low-cost drug program and Maine resident low-cost prescription drug program. The department would be required to consider the results of this study when determining pharmacy reimbursement rates. By January 2, 2002, the department would be required to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters the results of the study of the pharmacy services; and
4. Add a fiscal note to the bill.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, Part A, Section 1.