

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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Staff:

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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

See also LD 2599.

LD 2559

**An Act to Amend the Charter of Hospital Administrative District
No. 4**

P & S 70

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P	OTP	

LD 2559 proposed to increase the maximum debt limit for Hospital Administrative District #4 (Mayo Hospital) from \$7,000,000 to an amount not to exceed 2% of the total current state valuation of all towns and plantations that are members of the district.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 70 increases the maximum debt limit for Hospital Administrative District #4 (Mayo Hospital in Dover-Foxcroft) from \$7,000,000 to an amount not to exceed 2% of the total current state valuation of all towns and plantations that are members of the district.

LD 2580

Resolve, Regarding Access to Marijuana for Medical Use

RESOLVE 137

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAND QUINT	OTP-AM	S-597 S-797 RAND

LD 2580 proposed to create a voluntary registry for eligible patients and designated caregivers under the Maine Medical Marijuana Act of 1998 in the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services, Division of Licensing and Certification. The bill also proposed to create a distribution system for such individuals to secure marijuana from the Department of Public Safety, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. An eligible patient or designated caregiver would need a valid registry identification card in order to secure marijuana from the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-597) proposed to replace the bill, change the title and change the form of the bill to a resolve. It proposed to direct the Attorney General to convene a task force to study and make recommendations on implementation of the marijuana for medical purposes law and access to marijuana for medical purposes. It proposed to provide for the appointment of legislative members of the task force. It proposed to require a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice by October 1, 2000.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-776) proposed to add an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the resolve and to require the Speaker of the House to give preference to members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services when making appointments to the task force.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 137 directs the Attorney General to convene a task force to study implementation of the marijuana for medical purposes law and to recommend steps to implement the law and provide access to marijuana for medical purposes. The task force must be broadly representative. The President of the Senate appoints 2 Senators and the Speaker of the House appoints 5 Representatives. By October 1, 2000, the task force is required to report its recommendations and any suggested legislation to the joint standing committees on criminal justice and health and human services.

LD 2597

An Act to Improve Public Water Supply Protection

PUBLIC 761

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-1106
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LD 2597 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Improvement of Public Water Supply Protection, established pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 80. The bill proposed to strengthen notice requirements for projects that could threaten water supplies and to require a municipality to give a water supplier notice if a project is proposed near its groundwater wells or surface water intakes.

The bill proposed to move the Maine Drinking Water Program from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Environmental Protection and to require the Department of Environmental Protection to hire a consultant to help integrate the program into its overall structure. The bill proposed to allow the Department of Environmental Protection to deny, based on the presence of existing threats, an application to establish a new public water supply. The bill also proposed to require the Land and Water Resources Council to develop an education strategy for public water supply protection aimed at municipalities and the general public.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1106) proposed to strengthen the authority of the drinking water program to deny an application for a new water supply in the vicinity of potential sources of contamination that already exist.

The amendment proposed, instead of moving the drinking water program effective July 1, 2001, to require the Department of Human Services and the Department of Environmental Protection to jointly hire a consultant to review the drinking water and plumbing control programs and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various agencies to house the programs. The consultant would be required to submit a report outlining the findings of the review to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources and human services matters by February 1, 2001.