

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

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Georgette B. Berube
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

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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

LD 2606 proposed to remove the repealer on the section of law allowing foster parents, preadoptive parents or relatives providing care for a child to attend a review or hearing that is held with respect to the child.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 675 removes the repealer on the section of law allowing foster parents, preadoptive parents or relatives providing care for a child to attend a review or hearing that is held with respect to the child.

Public Law 1999, chapter 675 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 12, 2000.

LD 2623

An Act to Clarify Terms of Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Family Development Accounts

PUBLIC 628

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KONTOS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2623 proposed to clarify the terms for which members are appointed to the Advisory Committee on Family Development Accounts and includes provisions for vacancies and absences.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 628 clarifies the terms for which members are appointed to the Advisory Committee on Family Development Accounts and includes provisions for vacancies and absences.

LD 2644

An Act Relating to Eligibility for the Elderly Low-cost Drug Program

PUBLIC 707

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-1088
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Prior to changes to the elderly low-cost drug program enacted in Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part KKK, eligibility for the program extended to all members of a household if any household member was determined to be eligible. The changes enacted in Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part KKK, inadvertently caused some household members to lose eligibility. LD 2644 proposed to restore household eligibility as it applied before the 1999 changes.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1088) proposed to replace the bill. Current law provides that a person who was eligible for the elderly low-cost drug program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 254 at any time from August 1, 1998 to July 31, 1999 retains eligibility until February 28, 2001 if that person is a member of a household of an eligible person. This amendment would continue such eligibility beyond February 28, 2001. The amendment proposed to clarify that those persons who receive Medicaid benefits who are ineligible for the elderly low-cost drug program are those who receive Medicaid pharmaceutical benefits.

Enacted law summary

Current law provides that a person who was eligible for the elderly low-cost drug program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 254 at any time from August 1, 1998 to July 31, 1999 retains eligibility until February 28, 2001 if that person is a member of a household of an eligible person. Public Law 1999, chapter 707 continues such eligibility beyond February 28, 2001 and clarifies that those persons who receive Medicaid benefits who are ineligible for the elderly low-cost drug program are those who receive Medicaid pharmaceutical benefits.

LD 2654

**An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Board of Licensure of
Water Treatment Plant Operators**

PUBLIC 688

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2654 proposed to amend the laws regarding the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators. It proposed to do the following:

1. It proposed to modify the definition of "operator" to coincide with the federal definition;
2. It proposed to clarify the classification requirements to apply to all community public water systems and all noncommunity nontransient water systems;
3. It proposed to increase the membership on the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators from 7 to 9, in order to provide representation to the new classes of supply that are required to have licensed operators;
4. It proposed to authorize the board to suspend or revoke a license of a certified operator;
5. It proposed to repeal the provision that grandfathered operators who operated between October 1, 1966 and October 1, 1969; and
6. It proposed to repeal the provision that authorized a 13-month waiver provision to allow an applicant time to pass an annual exam.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 688 amends the laws regarding the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators. It does the following:

1. Modifies the definition of "operator" to coincide with the federal definition;
2. Clarifies the classification requirements to apply to all community public water systems and all noncommunity nontransient water systems;