

# 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:**

*Sen. Judy A. Paradis, Chair  
Sen. Georgette B. Berube  
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

*Rep. Thomas J. Kane, Chair  
Rep. Joseph E. Brooks  
Rep. Elaine Fuller  
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Rep. Thomas F. Shields*

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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](http://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:

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

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

***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;

3. Increases 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. Authorizes the board to suspend or revoke a license of a certified operator;
5. Repeals the provision that grandfathered operators who operated between October 1, 1966 and October 1, 1969; and
6. Repeals the provision that authorized a 13-month waiver provision to allow an applicant time to pass an annual exam.

**LD 2658**

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 1: Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who are Children in Need of Treatment, Section A-VII, Rights to Due Process With Regard to Grievances and Section A-IX, Confidentiality of and Access to Mental Health Records, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services**

**RESOLVE 117  
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report  
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2658 proposed to provide for legislative review of Chapter 1: Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who are Children in Need of Treatment, Section A-VII, Rights to Due Process With Regard to Grievances and Section A-IX, Confidentiality of and Access to Mental Health Records, a major substantive rule of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1999, chapter 117 provides for legislative review of Chapter 1: Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who are Children in Need of Treatment, Section A-VII, Rights to Due Process With Regard to Grievances and Section A-IX, Confidentiality of and Access to Mental Health Records, a major substantive rule of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. This resolve approves the adoption of the proposed rule.

Resolve 1999, chapter 117 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2000.