

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Health and Human Services*

August 2001

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120th Legislature
First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 2001

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 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:

CARRIED OVER..... *Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session*
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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is **September 21, 2001**.

David E. Boulter, Director
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-655) proposed to add an emergency preamble and clause to the bill to provide for an immediate effective date.

See Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part KKK, the Part II budget.

LD 640

Resolve, to Ensure Consumer Access to Home Care Services

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE PENDLETON	OTP-AM	H-621

LD 640 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to review and amend the rules of the Medicaid and state-funded long-term care programs regarding the right to appeal, the computation of time periods, the date of receipt of notices, appeal requests, the definition of "significant change," significant change assessments and the homebound requirement. Other issues covered by these rule changes would be the informal conference in home care programs, a report on labor force initiatives, unscheduled reassessments and barriers to eligibility and services. All rules adopted pursuant to this bill would be major substantive rules, requiring legislative review.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-621) proposed to strike from the resolve provisions on computation of time, the homebound requirement, the informal conference, a report on labor force initiatives, reassessments and barriers to receiving services. It proposed to increase the time period for sending the appeal form from 5 days to 10 days. It proposed to clarify that the "significant change" provision applies to home care programs only. It proposed to add an appropriation section, an allocation section and a fiscal note to the resolve.

LD 641

**An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Joint Advisory
Committee on Select Services for Older Persons**

P & S 22

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE PENDLETON	OTP-AM	H-377

LD 641 proposed to appropriate \$6,625,000 for improving access to and the delivery of services to older persons with mental illness, mental retardation, aging, dementia and substance abuse problems. The bill proposed to direct the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to review and revise their rules to improve access to and the delivery of services. It proposed to require reports by February 1, 2002 regarding these issues and semiannual reports on access to and delivery of services beginning February 1, 2003. The bill proposed to provide allocations of federal money to match the General Fund appropriations.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-377) proposed to remove from the bill the appropriation and allocation sections and add a fiscal note.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 22 directs the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to review and revise their rules to improve access to and the delivery of services. It requires reports by February 1, 2002 regarding these issues and semiannual reports on access to and delivery of services beginning February 1, 2003.

LD 679

An Act to Expand Access to Health Care for Adults

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE PENDLETON	ONTP	

LD 679 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to seek federal approval by October 1, 2001 to provide Medicaid coverage to persons aged 18 to 65 with income below 150% of the federal poverty level who were not otherwise covered by Medicaid. Medicaid coverage begins 30 days following federal approval. While waiting for federal approval, the department would be required to provide medical assistance coverage to the same extent that they provide Medicaid coverage, except that the department could lower the income eligibility level to the extent necessary to keep the program within the budget appropriated for it.

See also LD 1303, Public Law 2001, chapter 450.

LD 686

Resolve, Directing the Bureau of Health to Develop a Comprehensive Plan for the Detection and Treatment of Hepatitis C

RESOLVE 26

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRUNO GOLDTHWAIT	OTP	

LD 686 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health to develop a comprehensive plan for detection and treatment of hepatitis C.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2001, chapter 26 directs the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health to develop a comprehensive plan for detection and treatment of hepatitis C.