

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
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Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 689

**An Act to Require Newborn Screening for Metabolic Abnormalities
and Genetic or Biochemical Disorders**

ONTP

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

LD 689 proposed to require that screening be conducted of all newborn infants by hospitals, maternity homes and other maternity services. The bill proposed to require the Department of Human Services to amend its rules relating to newborn screening for metabolic, genetic and biochemical conditions to expand the types of conditions for which newborns would be screened.

LD 703

**An Act to Require that a Residential Facility for the Elderly Have
an Automatic Door at the Main Entrance**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BULL	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 703 proposed to require automatic doors or power-assisted doors on the entrance to nursing homes and other residential facilities for new construction and major remodeling, enlarging and renovating on or after January 1, 2002.

LD 716

**An Act to Provide for the Transfer of Assets of Hospital
Administrative District No. 1 to a Nonprofit, Nonstock Private
Corporation**

**P & S 31
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARR CATHCART	OTP-AM	H-624

LD 716 proposed to allow Hospital Administrative District No. 1, which operates Penobscot Valley Hospital, to convert by merger into a private nonprofit, nonstock corporation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-624) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to allow Hospital Administrative District No. 1, which operates Penobscot Valley Hospital, to transfer its assets to a nonprofit, nonstock private corporation. The transfer would relieve the current towns in the district from potential liabilities of the hospital and enable the hospital to improve its facilities to better serve the people located in its service area without any financial obligations for the towns formerly comprising the district. The amendment proposed to provide for the transfer process.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 31 allows Hospital Administrative District No. 1, which operates Penobscot Valley Hospital, to transfer its assets to a nonprofit, nonstock private corporation. The transfer will relieve the current towns in the district from potential liabilities of the hospital and enable the hospital to improve its facilities to better serve the people located in its service area without any financial obligations for the towns formerly comprising the district. The amendment provides for the transfer process.

Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 31 was enacted as an emergency measure effective when certification of dissolution is filed with the Secretary of State under the terms of the law.

LD 740

An Act to Provide Relief for Patients with Chronic Pain

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCGLOCKLIN MARTIN	ONTP	

LD 740, a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to amend current law to ensure that licensed physicians would not be unduly restricted in the scope or manner of prescribing medication for their patients.

LD 756

An Act to Ensure Quality Home Care Coordination Services and Improve Long-term Care Services

PUBLIC 362

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE	OTP-AM	H-580

LD 756 proposed to establish quality improvement committees for home care services for the elderly and disabled, which would include representatives of the home care agencies, consumers, consumer advocates, health care and service providers and representatives from each area agency on aging.

The bill proposed to direct the Long-term Care Implementation Committee, established in Public Law 1999, chapter 731, Part BBBB, section 15, to monitor the work of state departments pertaining to long-term care and direct the committee to review rules pertaining to long-term care and make recommendations to the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters regarding amendments to those rules.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-580) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to provide for an agency that contracts to provide home care coordination for the Department of Human Services to establish a quality assurance review committee to review the provision of home care services. It proposed to specify duties for the committee and to specify which entities the annual report must be provided. It proposed to add two consumer or consumer