

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

LD 864 **Resolve, Directing the Children's Cabinet to Coordinate the
Compilation of a Resource Guide to Assist Crisis Intervention
Centers to Help Runaway Youth** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TRAHAN KILKELLY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 864 proposed to direct the Children's Cabinet, through Communities for Children, to coordinate the compilation of a resource guide containing information to assist runaway youth.

LD 887 **An Act to Expand the Elderly Low-cost Drug Program** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PEAVEY SAVAGE C		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 887 proposed to increase the maximum income eligibility level for the Elderly Low-Cost Drug program from less than 185% of the federal poverty level to less than 189% of the federal poverty level, at 2000 income levels. The bill would have increased the income threshold approximately \$300 for a single person and \$682 for a family of 4. See also LD 50.

LD 898 **An Act to Improve Public Health in the State** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FULLER		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 898 is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposed to authorize the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health to designate Health Districts for planning and developing health promotion and disease prevention services to encourage and support equitable distribution of health promotion and disease prevention services, improve access to health care and create local leadership for activities to improve the health and well-being of Maine citizens.

This bill also proposed to provide funds to support the work of a coordinating Health District Council in each Health District. The Health District Councils, which would include the agencies, hospitals, schools and municipal governments who can assist with access to and delivery of health promotion and disease prevention services, would be responsible for ensuring that essential public health services are adequately addressed within the various elements of the health system in each region:

This bill proposed to fund the costs of the bill by increasing the cigarette tax.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

LD 905 **An Act to Amend Laws Governing Children's Mental Health Services Regarding the Informal Grievance Process** **ONTP**

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

LD 905 proposed to amend the laws governing children's mental health services to allow sufficient time for mediation and discussion to reach resolution between parties in dispute. Under current law, the informal grievance process must include a written decision within one week of filing or, if mediation is requested, within two weeks of filing. This bill would have required that the process commence within five working days of filing.

LD 916 **Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Human Services to Establish a Prescription Drug Reimportation Program** **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LEMOINE TREAT	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-383

LD 916 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to establish a prescription drug reimportation program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-383) is the majority report of the committee. It proposed to amend the resolve to authorize the Department of Human Services to establish a prescription drug reimportation program. This authorization would be contingent upon the department obtaining approval from the federal Department of Health and Human Services for the State to establish a prescription drug reimportation program and would be further contingent upon cost savings to be realized by the citizens of the State as a result of the operation of the reimportation program. In operating the program, the State would not act as a distributor of prescription drugs. It proposed to add a fiscal note to the resolve.

See Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part QQQ.

LD 917 **Resolve, Regarding Reimbursement for Optometrists Under the Medicaid Program** **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER FERGUSON	OTP-AM	H-490