

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 1024

An Act to Extend the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee

**PUBLIC 445
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
QUINT CATHCART	OTP-AM	H-207 S-390 GOLDTHWAIT

Under current law, the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee is scheduled for repeal on June 30, 2001. LD 1024 proposed to remove the repealer from that section of law to ensure the continuation of the committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-207) proposed to extend the work of the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee until December 1, 2001. It proposed to add an appropriation to fund the committee and a fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-390) proposed to extend the work of the Youth in Need of Services Pilot Program and the oversight committee until June 30, 2002.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 445 extends the work of the Youth in Need of Services Pilot Program and Oversight Committee until June 30, 2002. It limits the oversight committee to three meetings.

Public Law 2001, chapter 445 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 27, 2001.

LD 1033

An Act to Make Child Care More Accessible for Parents in Transition From Welfare to Work

PUBLIC 338

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SIMPSON LONGLEY	OTP-AM	H-493

LD 1033 proposed to provide that child care assistance provided to participants in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program who are engaged in paid work must be paid directly to the participant's child care provider by the Department of Human Services in a prompt manner that permits the participant to access child care without paying for it out-of-pocket in advance.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-493) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to provide for the determination of TANF benefit levels for TANF recipients who have child care costs. It proposed to allow TANF recipients to pay their child care costs themselves, with the assistance provided by the Department of Human Services, or they may elect to have the department's assistance paid directly to the child care provider. It proposed to require the department to adopt rules to implement the child care assistance provisions. These rules would be routine technical rules. It proposed to require the direct payment of child care assistance to be implemented no later than March 1, 2002. It proposed to allow the transfer of funds from the ASPIRE-TANF account to the TANF account for the payment of child care assistance. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 338 provides for the determination of TANF benefit levels for TANF recipients who have child care costs. It allows TANF recipients to pay their child care costs themselves, with the assistance provided by the Department of Human Services, or they may elect to have the department's assistance paid directly to the child care provider. It requires the department to adopt rules to implement the child care assistance provisions. These rules are routine technical rules. It requires the direct payment of child care assistance to be implemented no later than March 1, 2002. It allows the transfer of funds from the ASPIRE-TANF account to the TANF account for the payment of child care assistance.

LD 1040 **An Act to Assist Low-income Families with the Purchase or Repair of Vehicles** **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SNOWE-MELLO		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-592
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LD 1040 proposed to establish the Drive ME Wheels-to-work Program and require the Commissioner of Human Services to adopt rules to implement the program, which would provide loans for the purchase of used vehicles and for the purchase of repair and maintenance services to people who receive assistance through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. The loans would be provided through community action agencies at below-market rates. The bill proposed to create a revolving loan fund to finance the program and provide an appropriation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-592) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to appropriate \$200,000 to continue an initiative within the Department of Human Services to assist low-income families with the purchase or repair of vehicles. It proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1072 **An Act to Ensure that Parents of Children Prescribed Psychotropic Drugs Receive Adequate Information** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WESTON PENDLETON		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1072 proposed to require a practitioner, prior to prescribing a psychotropic drug to a person under 18 years of age, to ensure that the person's parent or guardian fully understood the information concerning the drug, including the drug's side effects.