

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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session</i>
<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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & 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 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

Maine reaches benefit levels equivalent to the average benefit level for a family of three in the other New England states in 2004 by July 1, 2005. Those families receiving the housing special need payment without interruption since January 1, 2001 would not lose that housing special need payment as a result of the increase. The bill proposed to require that on February 15, 2005, the department report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters on the adequacy of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefit levels.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-238) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to provide Federal Block Grant Fund allocations to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program within the Department of Human Services totaling \$2,377,295 and \$2,377,295 in fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively, to provide a 5% increase in the maximum level of assistance in the TANF program.

Beginning with the 2004-2005 biennium, the Department of Human Services would be required to include funding for the 5% benefit increase within its current services budget request.

This amendment proposed to add an allocation section to fund the TANF increase and a fiscal note to the bill.

See Part II budget, Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part CC.

LD 1216	Resolve, to Create the Task Force to Study the Various Effects of Maine's Long-term Care System	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LONGLEY KANE	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1216 proposed to create the Task Force to Study the Various Effects of Maine's Long-term Care System.

LD 1219	An Act to Ensure Continuity of Services from Private Nonmedical Institutions	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u> QUINT	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1219, a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to hold agencies financially and legally harmless from any change in the Department of Human Services' rules regarding private, nonmedical institutions. The bill also proposed to prevent the department from financially or legally penalizing providers of private, nonmedical institution services.