

# 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](http://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 1289**

**An Act to Reimburse Restaurants for the Cost of Testing Water**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS G TURNER	ONTP	

LD 1289 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to reimburse restaurants from the operation fee for the drinking water program for the cost of annual testing for bacteria and nitrate content. The cost of this test is estimated at \$22 per year.

**LD 1300**

**An Act to Establish the Child Ombudsman Office and Improve Child Protective Procedures**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1300 proposed to:

1. Repeal the statute that established the unfunded Office of Child Welfare Services Ombudsman within the Department of Human Services;
2. Establish the Child Ombudsman Office to provide ombudsman services to children and families through a contract with a nonprofit organization that the Governor found free of potential conflict of interest and best able to provide services on a statewide basis. The office would answer inquiries and investigate and work toward resolution of complaints regarding services and programs for children and families, provide information, assistance and legal representation services, provide an outreach program, collect and analyze information and would report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services;
3. Provide for access to records, confidentiality of those records and immunity from civil and criminal liability;
4. Require a report by January 31, 2002 on transferring authority for other child ombudsman and advocacy programs and services and the funding associated with those programs and services to the Child Ombudsman Office. It would have allowed the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services to submit legislation to the 120th Legislature transferring funding and authority for services to the Child Ombudsman Office;
5. Provide criminal penalties for willfully obstructing or hindering the ombudsman; and
6. Provide an effective date of January 1, 2002.

See also LD 764 and the Part II budget, Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part X.