

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 1302

An Act to Enhance Access to Health Care in Maine

ONTP

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

LD 1302 proposed a number of provisions to enhance access to health care and update the laws covering the Department of Human Services and the Maine Health Data Organization. The bill also proposed to do the following:

1. Require the Maine Health Data Organization to make its data available to the Department of Human Services for comprehensive health planning;
2. Require the Maine Health Data Organization to adopt rules for the use of a uniform billing form to be effective July 1, 2002;
3. Require any savings realized as a result of using the uniform billing form by the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to be deposited in a dedicated fund established to increase access to health care;
4. Establish the Commission to Study the Challenges of Community Nonprofit Hospitals to study and make recommendations on the roles of community nonprofit hospitals through the 21st century;
5. Change the name of the Department of Human Services to "Department of Health and Human Services" and change the name of the Bureau of Medical Services to "Bureau of Health and Medical Services." The bill proposed to contain transition language pending full amendment to state laws, federal plans and program information and departmental contracts and written obligations;
6. Change the names of the Medicaid and Cub Care programs to "MaineCare program" effective January 1, 2002. The bill proposed transition language pending full amendment to state laws, federal plans and program information and departmental contracts and written obligations;
7. Require providers of health care services to develop the ability to file claims electronically for their services by July 1, 2002 and require 50% of all claims to be filed electronically by July 1, 2003. It proposed to require insurance carriers, nonprofit hospital and medical service organizations and health maintenance organizations to accept claims filed electronically and require those entities to provide technical assistance to providers regarding electronic claims filing from October 1, 2001 to September 1, 2002; and
8. Allow dental hygienists to practice dental hygiene under the general supervision of a dentist in public health settings. "Public health setting" was defined as a public or private school, hospital, clinic, nursing facility or other institution or health care facility or nontraditional practice setting.