

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Health and Human Services*

May 2002

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120th Legislature
Second Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 2002

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 organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name and within committees by bill (LD) number.

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:

- 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
PASSED..... Joint Order passed in both bodies
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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 25, 2002.

Patrick T. Norton, Interim Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 1346

Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Shortage

ONTP

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

LD 1346 proposed to establish the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Shortage to study the labor shortage of health professionals in the State and to report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services, labor and education and cultural affairs matters no later than January 1, 2003.

LD 1363

An Act to Reduce Medical Errors and Improve Patient Health

PUBLIC 678

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAND KANE	OTP-AM	S-527 S-604 GOLDTHWAIT

LD 1363 proposed to establish the Maine Health Care Quality Improvement Center to improve the quality of health care provided to patients, increase patient safety and reduce medical errors. The bill proposed to create a mandatory reporting system for medical errors and events and incidents injurious to patients that involve health care facilities designating these events and incidents "sentinel events."

Committee Amendment "A" (S-527) proposed to establish a sentinel events reporting system for hospitals and other facilities licensed by the Division of Licensing and Certification in the Department of Human Services, but not nursing facilities. The amendment proposed adding 4 positions for one year and proposed General Fund funding.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-604) proposed to reduce the funding to 2 positions for 2 months beginning May 1, 2003. It proposed to delay the effective date of the law to May 1, 2003.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 678 establishes a sentinel event reporting system to improve the quality of health care provided to patients, increase patient safety and reduce medical errors for hospitals and other facilities licensed by the Division of Licensing and Certification, but not nursing facilities. The effective date is 5/1/03.

LD 1512

An Act to Increase Long-term Care Options for Low-income Citizens of the State

ONTP

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