

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 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 arranged alphabetically by committee name 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>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>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</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 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	