

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Health and Human Services*

July 2003

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Sen. John L. Martin
Sen. Carol Weston*

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i>	<i>Bills carried over to the 2nd 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>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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 285

**An Act Directing the Department of Human Services to Adjust
Dental Reimbursement Rates under the Medicaid Program**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'BRIEN J		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 285 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to set the Medicaid reimbursement rates by October 1, 2003 for dental services to the 50th percentile of the fees published by a nationwide dental association.

LD 295

An Act To Revise the Laws Regulating Boarding Homes

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAVERRIERE- BOUCHER ROTUNDO		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 295 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposed to revise regulations for boarding homes in order to encourage the availability of this type of housing. Currently, regulations for boarding homes may be so strict as to discourage the establishment of new boarding homes.

LD 329

An Act to Encourage the Use of Generic Drugs

PUBLIC 384

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-191
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LD 329 proposed to require a pharmacist to fill a prescription with a generic and therapeutic equivalent of the drug if the prescribing physician does not affirmatively specify that a particular brand-name drug be dispensed. Current law permits a pharmacist to dispense a generic drug.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-191) proposed to provide that the generic substitution provisions of the bill apply to MaineCare prescriptions only when the Department of Human Services has determined that a generic and therapeutically equivalent drug would be more cost effective.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 384 requires a pharmacist to fill a prescription with a generic and therapeutic equivalent of the drug if the prescribing physician does not affirmatively specify that a particular brand-name drug be dispensed. The law contains special considerations for the MaineCare Program.