

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Insurance and Financial Services*

July 2003

Members:

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Chair

Sen. Neria R. Douglass

Sen. Arthur F. Mayo III

Rep. Christopher P. O'Neil, Chair

Rep. Marilyn E. Canavan

Rep. Joseph C. Perry

Rep. Bonita J. Breault

Rep. Anne C. Perry

Rep. Kevin J. Glynn

Rep. Florence T. Young

Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello

Rep. Michael A. Vaughan

Rep. Richard G. Woodbury

Staff:

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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 Insurance and Financial Services

LD 814 **An Act To Help Businesses with a Clean Workers' Compensation Claims History** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HUTTON EDMONDS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 814 proposed to require that employers with no claims history for the prior year be given credit for the lack of claims experience in determining the premium for workers' compensation insurance.

LD 821 **An Act To Clarify the Assignment of Provider Identification Numbers to Nurse Practitioners** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SHIELDS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 821 proposed to clarify that the law directing health insurance carriers to issue provider identification numbers to certified nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives does not mandate specific methods of submitting a claim or prohibit any methods of submitting a claim that may be negotiated among carriers and providers.

LD 852 **An Act To Promote Alternatives in Group Self-insurance** **PUBLIC 315**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'NEIL		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-338
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LD 852 proposed to allow the Superintendent of Insurance to establish the Workers' Compensation Group Self-insurance Specific Reinsurance Alternative Account, an alternative method for group self-insurers to secure payment on specific claims that exceed \$500,000. The superintendent is required to establish the account if 3 or more group self-insurers request the creation of the account. Participation in the account is required for a minimum of 3 years. Payments by the group self-insurers into the account are based on the rates of reinsurance and adjusted by the superintendent. Claims may be made for an injury occurring on or after the date of first deposit into the account but must be repaid in full through annualized payments by the group self-insurer.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-338) proposed to replace the bill. This amendment proposed to establish an alternative method for a workers' compensation group self-insurer to secure payment of catastrophic losses arising out of a single occurrence. The amendment allows 4 or more group self-insurers to seek approval from the Superintendent of Insurance of an account to hold contributions from participating members and make claims payments on specific claims that are in excess of \$500,000.

Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 315 establishes an alternative method for a workers' compensation group self-insurer to secure payment of catastrophic losses arising out of a single occurrence in excess of \$500,000. The law allows 4 or more group self-insurers to seek approval from the Superintendent of Insurance of a group self-insurance reinsurance account to hold contributions from participating members in lieu of reinsurance.

LD 857 **An Act To Provide Maine Consumers Information about the Cost and Quality of Health Care Services in Maine** **ONTP**

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

LD 857 proposed to direct the Maine Health Data Organization to collect quality data and produce periodic quality and cost of medical care reports for consumers' use in determining their medical care needs. The bill also requires the Maine Health Data Organization to produce similar reports for medical care rendered in the State compared to medical care rendered in other states in the region. It also requires hospitals and certain other health care institutions licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 405 to develop, maintain and release a price list of the 15 most common services involving inpatient stays and outpatient procedures rendered for use by consumers for their medical care needs. This bill also requires medical doctors and osteopaths to develop, maintain and release a price list of at least the 15 most common procedures rendered by that professional for use by consumers for their medical care needs.

A related provision was incorporated into Public Law 2003, chapter 469. See summary of LD 1611.

LD 873 **An Act To Provide Better Access to Information Related to Health Care Reimbursement Rates** **ONTP**

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

LD 873 proposed to require carriers to provide information related to the reimbursement rates for providers participating in its health plans upon request by the Superintendent of Insurance, by an enrollee or by an enrollee's representative.