

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and
First Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Health and Human Services*

August 2005

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Maine State Legislature

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122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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 June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 266 **An Act To Ensure That All Providers of MaineCare Services Are
Maine-based Businesses** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ANDREWS LEWIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 266 proposed to provide that, beginning January 1, 2006, the Department of Health and Human Services may not reimburse a provider of MaineCare health care services unless the provider is a business or sole proprietorship based in the State. The bill proposed to provide an exception to this restriction if obtaining the necessary health care service from a Maine-based business or sole proprietorship is not practical.

LD 318 **An Act To Protect the MaineCare Program** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCKANE DOW		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 318 proposed to amend the MaineCare law as follows:

1. It would return the MaineCare eligibility levels to the levels in effect prior to the passage of the Dirigo Health law, Public Law 2003, chapter 469;
2. It would eliminate the noncategorical adult eligibility expansion of the MaineCare program;
3. It would increase the MaineCare reimbursement rate for hospitals from 75% to 88% of their actual costs, the same as Medicare; and
4. It would repeal that provision of the MaineCare Basic program in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-FF, subsection 3, paragraph H that relates to MaineCare coverage for noncategorical adults.

LD 343 **An Act To Require That Health Care Providers Use Uniform
Rates BY REQUEST** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ANDREWS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 343 proposed to require that beginning January 1, 2006 a health care provider will charge the same for the health care service regardless of the patient or the anticipated payor.