

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 584

An Act To Encourage Long-term Care Insurance and Expand Eligibility for MaineCare

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS P		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 584 proposed to provides an exemption to the estate recovery procedures for a MaineCare recipient who resided in a nursing facility or assisted living facility and who used long-term care insurance under specific circumstances. The policy of long-term care insurance would have been approved by the Superintendent of Insurance and would have paid for benefits in a nursing facility or assisted living facility licensed in the State in an amount equal to or greater than \$125 per day or the full cost of care in the facility, whichever is less. The insurance would have paid for care for a time period of at least 2 years or until the death of the recipient, whichever occurred first. The bill proposed to direct the Department of Health and Human Services and the Superintendent of Insurance to adopt routine technical rules to implement the exception.

See PL 2005, chapter 12, section DDD-10.

LD 604

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Study Initiatives for Local Pharmacies Participating in the MaineCare Program

RESOLVE 83

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PERRY A SULLIVAN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-556
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LD 604 proposed to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to provide local alternatives to MaineCare's mail-order pharmacy.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2005, chapter 83 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to study access to drugs in state-sponsored programs and initiatives for local pharmacies participating in the MaineCare program. It requires a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by September 15, 2005 on the telepharmacy initiative and by January 15, 2006 on all initiatives.

LD 609

An Act To Reconcile General Assistance Prescription Drug Payments with Changes in Federal Prescription Drug Card Benefits and with MaineCare Prescription Drug Payments

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GLYNN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 609 proposed to change the law concerning the general assistance program for municipalities to specify that general assistance may not be given for applicants receiving Medicare, MaineCare or Dirigo Health, or other prescription coverage, for coverage denied by those programs.