

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Health and Human Services*

July 2006

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Maine State Legislature



Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Office of Fiscal and Program Review

122nd Maine Legislature Second 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 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/billsumm.htm).

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:

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
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED (Pocket Veto).....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 23, 2006.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 463 **Resolve, To Amend MaineCare Eligibility for the Workers with Disabilities Option** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAYO	OTP-AM MAJ	
PINGREE	ONTP MIN	

LD 463 proposed to require the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the rules to allow workers with disabilities to purchase coverage in the MaineCare program beginning January 1, 2006. The rules would maintain the current income eligibility limits while removing separate limits on earned and unearned income. This resolve proposed to designate the rules as routine technical rules.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-457) proposed to require the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its eligibility rules to allow employed persons with disabilities to purchase MaineCare coverage beginning January 1, 2006. This amendment proposed to change that date to August 1, 2006.

LD 678 **An Act To Require Fair and Timely MaineCare Payments to Hospitals** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS P	OTP-AM MAJ	S-181
CROSTHWAITE	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 678 proposed to require the Department of Health and Human Services to use current hospital cost reports to calculate amounts owed to hospitals and pay any amounts due within one year of receiving the hospital cost report.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-181) is the majority report of the committee. The amendment proposed to correct a section number. The amendment proposed to correct the reference to the hospital's as-filed cost report and delete the provision prohibiting caps on hospital prospective interim payment amounts.

Committee Amendment “B” (S-182) is the minority report of the committee. The amendment proposed to correct a section number. The amendment proposed to correct the reference to the hospital's as-filed cost report.

LD 687 **An Act To Amend the Hospital Tax** **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOW	ONTP MAJ	S-164
MCKANE	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 687 proposed to increase the tax imposed on hospitals from .74% to 2.23% of net operating revenues. This bill returns the tax rate to the original rate of .74%.