

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

Staff:

*Jane Orbeton, Senior Analyst
Elizabeth F. Cooper, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670*

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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

Under current law, when certain eligible people die, a decision on an application to a municipality for assistance with burial or cremation expenses must be rendered within 10 days.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-456) proposed to change to 3 business days the time period in which a funeral director must notify the overseer of a municipality of the death of an eligible person, change the bill's proposed 2-day time period for the overseer to decide on an application for burial or cremation costs to 8 days and remove the proposed changes to the relatives responsible for paying for burial or cremation.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 483 changes to 3 business days the time period in which a funeral director must notify the overseer of a municipality of the death of a person eligible for general assistance, changes the time period for the overseer to decide on an application for burial or cremation costs to 8 days and removes the proposed changes to the relatives responsible for paying for burial or cremation.

LD 1183

An Act Regarding Access to Mental Health Services

PUBLIC 680

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BRENNAN DUDLEY | OTP-AM | S-279 S-665 ROTUNDO |

LD 1183 proposed to allow more than 16 visits per year for psychological services benefits for individual and group counseling for which a member is eligible under MaineCare Basic if the member obtains prior approval for the extra visits from the department.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-279) proposed to add an appropriations and allocations section.

Senate Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A” (S-665) proposed to allow the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the maximum number of visits for psychological services benefits for individual and group counseling for which a member is eligible under MaineCare Basic from 16 to 24 visits per year, if the costs associated with the increase are offset by savings from managing the use of services.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 680 allows the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the maximum number of visits for psychological services benefits for individual and group counseling for which a member is eligible under MaineCare Basic from 16 to 24 visits per year, if the costs associated with the increase are offset by savings from managing the use of services.