

# 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](http://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 1208**

**Resolve, Regarding the Prevention of Suicide**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1208, a resolve, proposed to establish a working group to study the high rate of suicide in Maine. The working group would have submitted its report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 31, 2006.

**LD 1420**

**An Act To Establish a Maternal and Infant Death Review Panel**

**PUBLIC 467**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE MARTIN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-728 H-739 PINGREE

LD 1420 proposed to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a multidisciplinary panel to review maternal and infant death cases in this State. This bill, in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1071, subchapter 11-A, proposed to provide the panel with authority to gain access to relevant data including medical, public health, social service and mental health records and ensure that proceedings and records in the possession of the panel remain confidential and exempt from subpoena and legal discovery. The bill also proposed to permit the panel to contact families of the deceased to request additional information and offer grief support resources.

**Committee Amendment “A” (H-728)** is the majority report of the committee. It proposed to establish the maternal and infant death review panel within the Department of Health and Human Services.

**House Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A” (H-739)** proposed to prohibits contact with the parents or authorized representative of a deceased person for 4 months after the death and require that the maternal and infant death review panel offer a copy of its annual report to parents and authorized representatives that consent to participate in the review.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 2005, chapter 467 establishes the maternal and infant death review panel within the Department of Health and Human Services. The law allows contact with the parents or authorized representative of a deceased person more than 4 months after the death. The law requires the maternal and infant death review panel to offer a copy of its annual report to parents and authorized representatives that consent to participate in the review.