

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*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*

Members:

*Sen. Arthur F. Mayo III, Chair
Sen. John L. Martin
Sen. Richard W. Rosen*

*Rep. Hannah Pingree, Chair
Rep. William R. Walcott
Rep. Carol A. Grose
Rep. Richard J. Burns
Rep. Elizabeth S. Miller
Rep. David C. Webster
Rep. Thomas F. Shields
Rep. James J. Campbell, Sr.
Rep. Sarah O. Lewin
Rep. Kevin J. Glynn
Rep. Michael Sockalexis*

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 1927

Resolve, To Collect Information about Employer-based Health Coverage

RESOLVE 213

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDMONDS CANAVAN	OTP-AM	S-580 S-688 ROTUNDO

LD 1927 proposed to require the Department of Health and Human Services to collect and disclose the names of the employers of applicants for MaineCare, and of persons requesting uncompensated care in a hospital and to disclose the total cost to the State of providing MaineCare benefits for the employees of each named employer and their enrolled dependents.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-580) proposed to replace the bill and change it to a resolve. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Labor to conduct a one-time survey project to collect and analyze information on employer-sponsored health coverage. The amendment proposed to protect the confidentiality of information that directly identifies employers that is collected and generated for the survey by the Department of Labor and require a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial affairs and the Board of Directors of Dirigo Health that presents the information in aggregate form and does not identify employers by name.

Senate Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A” (S-604) proposed to correct the appropriations and allocations section to reflect additional funding of \$65,000 needed for the Department of Labor in fiscal year 2006-07.

Senate Amendment “B” to Committee Amendment “A” (S-688) proposed to amend the scope of the work to be performed and strike and replace the General Fund appropriation for fiscal year 2006-07 and prohibit the use of outside funding sources to cover the costs of the survey.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2005, chapter 213 directs the Department of Labor to conduct a one-time limited survey project to collect and analyze information on employer-sponsored health coverage. The resolve allows a larger data collection effort if department funds are available. The resolve protects the confidentiality of information that directly identifies employers that is collected and generated for the survey by the Department of Labor and requires a report by February 1, 2007 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial affairs and the Board of Directors of Dirigo Health that presents the information in aggregate form and does not identify employers by name.

LD 1928

An Act Permitting the Recycling of Unused Prescription Drugs

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SULLIVAN PERRY A	ONTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 1928 proposed to establish an unused prescription drug program, under which unused prescription drugs were accepted and dispensed to low-income persons. To be eligible for the program a person would have a family income below 350% of the federal poverty level, could not be receiving MaineCare prescription drug benefits, would be a Maine resident and would have a valid prescription for the drug to be dispensed. The program could accept unused prescription drugs from drug manufacturers, drug wholesale and terminal distributors, hospitals, health clinics, federally qualified health centers, Indian health centers and rural health centers and assisted living facilities licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

LD 1934 An Act To Improve Retention, Quality and Benefits for Direct RESOLVE 194
Care Health Workers

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> EDMONDS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-568
------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	--	------------------------------------

LD 1934 proposed to require the Department of Health and Human Services to study options for, and cost of, increasing wages and providing health coverage for direct care workers in state-funded and MaineCare-funded long-term care programs.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-568) proposed to add to the study a survey of former direct care workers to determine whether they would return to work if the pay were increased to \$10 per hour and a survey of organizations serving senior citizens to determine the level of interest of older persons in becoming direct care workers.

This amendment also proposed to make grammatical corrections to the resolve and eliminates redundant language.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2005, chapter 194 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to study options for, and cost of, increasing wages and providing health coverage for direct care workers in state-funded and MaineCare-funded long-term care programs.

The study includes a survey of former direct care workers to determine whether they would return to work if the pay were increased to \$10 per hour and a survey of organizations serving senior citizens to determine the level of interest of older persons in becoming direct care workers.

LD 1947 An Act To Protect Children from the Onset of Autism ONTP

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

LD 1947 proposed to prohibit the use of more than trace amounts of mercury, as defined by the United States Food and Drug Administration, in any vaccine for administration to children 8 years of age and younger or to pregnant women. It also proposed an exemption for public health emergencies. The bill proposed to require the