

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 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 Care Health Workers

RESOLVE 194

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