

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature coming from the

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

July 2007

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STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

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 (or Accepted ONTP report)..... | 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..... | Bill held by Governor |
| VETO SUSTAINED..... | Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto |

Please note that the effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 168 **Resolve, To End Fraud in Maine's Welfare Benefit Programs**

RESOLVE 31

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| WALCOTT | OTP-AM | H-163 |

This bill, presented as a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposes to enact measures that would address and mitigate fraud in the State's welfare benefit programs, such as, but not limited to, MaineCare and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-163)

This amendment changes the bill to a resolve and attempts to address and mitigate possible fraud in the MaineCare program and in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and in determining eligibility for the federal food stamp program. The amendment requires routine technical rulemaking that would require independent verification of income and residence as part of eligibility determination.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 31 addresses and mitigates possible fraud in the MaineCare program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and the federal food stamp program by requiring independent verification of income and residence as part of eligibility determination. The resolve makes any rules that the Department of Health and Human Services needs to implement related to this law routine technical rules.

LD 273 **An Act To Help Save the Homes of Some Persons Who Enter Nursing Facilities**

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| TUTTLE MARRACHE | ONTP | |

This bill will assist a MaineCare recipient entering a nursing facility to save the recipient's residence by prohibiting estate recovery action against the residence until the recipient has stated in writing that the recipient has no intention of returning to live in the residence.

LD 282 **An Act To Provide Dental Care for Pregnant Women and New Mothers Receiving MaineCare Benefits**

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| FAIRCLOTH | ONTP | |

This bill extends MaineCare dental and oral health services to a woman who is eligible for MaineCare because of pregnancy and for 60 days following the delivery of the child.

LD 283 **An Act To Require Direct Payment to Child Care Centers**

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DUPREY | ONTP | |