

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
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

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. JOSEPH C. BRANNIGAN, CHAIR
SEN. LISA T. MARRACHE
SEN. KEVIN L. RAYE

REP. ANNE C. PERRY, CHAIR
REP. WILLIAM R. WALCOTT
REP. CAROL A. GROSE
REP. ELIZABETH S. MILLER
REP. PAULETTE G. BEAUDOIN
REP. GARY A. CONNOR
REP. ROBERT P. WALKER
REP. JAMES J. CAMPBELL, SR.
REP. SARAH O. LEWIN
REP. DONNA W. FINLEY
REP. DONALD G. SOCTOMAH

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 1574 Resolve, To Address Drug Abuse and Addiction

ONTP

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

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct an objective study of the State's ability to respond to its current drug abuse and addiction crisis and to prepare for future addiction treatment needs.

LD 1639 Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Health and Human Services To Implement Representative Payee and Disability Specialists Programs

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

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

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to create and implement, by July 1, 2008, a representative payee program to provide assistance to recipients of social security or supplemental security income benefits who cannot manage or direct the management of their funds. This resolve also directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to create and implement, by July 1, 2008, a disability specialist program to provide assistance to homeless individuals in applying for supplemental security income or social security disability income benefits.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-408)

This amendment, which was not adopted, is the minority report and adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 1660 An Act To Provide One-time Funds To Leverage Private Funds To Strengthen Children and Families in Maine

ONTP

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

This bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 for Youth Alternatives' family-focused services initiative to provide funds to complete the requirements of a private challenge grant for providing secure space at the former Maine Youth Center.

LD 1661 Resolve, To Support Community Planning for the Aging of the Population

RESOLVE 29

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL	OTP-AM	H-160

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to convene a stakeholders group to study community plans in Maine and to ensure the plans include a component addressing the elder population.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-160)

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

The amendment changes the resolve to clarify that the Commissioner of Health and Human Services should encourage and promote community planning that includes components addressing the elder population, corrects the name of the Office of Elder Services' Area Agencies on Aging and allows the commissioner to include other interested parties in the group created by this legislation.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 29 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a stakeholders' group to review and encourage planning activities by Maine communities that address the older population. The group must include representatives of the Area Agencies on Aging, the University of Maine Center on Aging, the Maine Municipal State Planning Office and the Public Health Work Group.

LD 1669 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Reimbursement of Nursing Facilities

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUMMINGS	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-292

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$6,000,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$12,000,000 in fiscal year 2008-09 and ongoing Federal Expenditure Fund allocations of \$12,000,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$24,000,000 in fiscal year 2008-09 for the costs of rebasing nursing facility costs to a base year determined by audited allowable costs for a facility's fiscal year ending between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to fully reimburse a nursing home's actual heating costs and adjusts the administration and policy-planning ceiling and requires the ceiling to be adjusted quarterly according to inflation. This bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse a nursing facility for actual additional medical director expenses up to \$10,000.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-292)

This amendment replaces the appropriations and allocations section of the bill, decreasing the total General Fund Appropriation to \$7,602,434 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$7,822,280 in Fiscal Year 2009 and adjusting the matching federal funds.

This bill died on adjournment on the Appropriations Table. Public Law 2007, chapter 240, page 395 includes funding for rebasing of \$1,900,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$6,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2009.

LD 1676 An Act To Ensure the Effective Management of the Behavioral Health Care Services System in Maine

ONTP

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

This bill codifies the development of a managed behavioral health care services system pursuant to Public Law 2005, chapter 457, Part PP; Public Law 2005, chapter 519, Part ZZZ; and Resolve 2005, chapter 203. It provides specific information designed to guide the development of the system.