

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 1745

**An Act To Improve Continuity of Care within Maine's
Community-based Mental Health Services**

PUBLIC 286

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BRANNIGAN | OTP-AM | S-143 |

This bill clarifies references to the area quality improvement councils in the mental health laws. The bill also renames the local service networks as the community service networks and requires them to be established in each of the geographical areas that were previously covered by area quality improvement councils. The bill requires each community service network to participate in the delivery of mental health services in a system that ensures continuity of care to adults experiencing psychiatric crises. The bill also describes the circumstances when client information can be shared during a crisis situation or when necessary to protect the consumer's health and safety.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-143)

This amendment adds a reporting section to the bill. Under the reporting section, by January 15, 2008 the Department of Health and Human Services must report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services regarding the operation of the community service networks in the geographic areas designated in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 3608, subsection 1-A and the state health regions designated by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the possibilities for coordination among the regions or for redesignation.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 286 changes the structure of the community mental health system. It establishes community service networks and maintains quality improvement councils for the two state psychiatric hospitals. The law requires community service networks to participate in the delivery of services and allows limited sharing of client mental health information.

The law requires a report to the Health and Human Services Committee by January 1, 2008, on the operation of the community service networks in the geographic regions, on the state health regions and on the possibilities for coordination among the regions or for redesignation of the regions.

LD 1746

An Act To Improve MaineCare and Promote Employment

PUBLIC 448

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BARTLETT | OTP-AM | S-319 |

This bill requires the court, hearing officers or applicable administrative agency to consider, when determining new or modified orders for child support, a means to provide support for a child's health care expenses, including but not limited to enrollment in employer-sponsored group health insurance plans, purchase of private health insurance plans, participation in public health insurance plans and cash payments of premiums, copayments, deductibles and routine and extraordinary medical expenses not otherwise covered by health insurance plans. It requires plaintiffs and defendants to provide information related to their ability to provide medical child support including information on employer-sponsored group health insurance and private health insurance available to the plaintiff and defendant as part of the affidavits, medical child support and child support worksheets and other relevant information that the parties are required to file with the court. It requires the court or hearing officer to review the information submitted by the plaintiff and defendant and to determine the amount of medical child support to be contributed by each and how that support is to be payable. The bill