

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES**

May 2008

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JANE ORBETON, SENIOR ANALYST
ELIZABETH COOPER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
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**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 Second Regular or First Special Sessions of the 123rd Maine Legislature.

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:

<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died</i>
<i>ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report)</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (R2) is June 30, 2008. The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session (S1) is July 18, 2008.¹ The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills. Any bill summarized in this document having an LD number less than 1932 was a bill carried over from the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

¹ The session in which each law was enacted or finally passed (R2 or S1) is included in Appendix C.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 2311 An Act To Invest in Maine's Young Children

PUBLIC 683

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

S-695 ROTUNDO

This bill is a committee bill from the majority of the committee. The bill establishes the Office of the Child Advocate through contracted services for the purpose of ongoing, coordinated advocacy on behalf of young children. It establishes the Maine Children's Growth Council to develop, maintain and evaluate a long-term plan for investment in the healthy development of Maine's young children and their families and to review and address recommendations of studies and advisory committees and the Children's Cabinet. The bill provides for a research and evaluation contract and a needs assessment contract. The bill changes the rate of interest on quality child care project loans, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to offer voluntary universal home visiting for new families as permitted by the availability of funds and requires the Finance Authority of Maine to undertake a public education campaign regarding the availability of loans for child care facilities. The bill provides increased funding for quality child care education scholarships, requires a report on the benefits, cost-effectiveness and effect on families of unifying policies governing child care subsidies and provides funding for regional collaboration coaches for pre-kindergarten programs. In making the initial appointments to the Maine Children's Growth Council, the bill requires the appointing authorities to consider for appointment persons who serve on the Children's Cabinet Task Force on Early Childhood.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-695)

This amendment:

1. Strikes the provisions from the bill that establish the Office of the Child Advocate and authorize a research and evaluation contract and a needs assessment contract;
2. Repeals the chapter that establishes and governs the Maine Children's Growth Council effective October 1, 2009;
3. Strikes the provisions from the bill that direct the Finance Authority of Maine to undertake a public education campaign regarding the availability of loans for child care facilities;
4. Strikes the provisions from the bill that direct the Department of Education to employ 4 regionally assigned community collaboration coaches and eliminates funding for those community collaboration coaches; and
5. Eliminates increased funding for quality child care education scholarships.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 683 establishes the Maine Children's Growth Council to develop, maintain and evaluate a long-term plan for investment in the healthy development of Maine's young children and their families and to review and address recommendations of studies and advisory committees and the Children's Cabinet. The law changes the rate of interest on quality child care project loans and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to offer voluntary universal home visiting for new families as permitted by the availability of funds. The law requires a report on the benefits, cost-effectiveness and effect on families of unifying policies governing child care subsidies. In making the initial appointments to the Maine Children's Growth Council, the bill requires the appointing authorities to consider for appointment persons who serve on the Children's Cabinet Task Force on Early Childhood. The law contains an automatic repeal date of October 1, 2009.