

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

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

July 2009

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**STAFF:**

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

124<sup>TH</sup> 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 First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> 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:

CARRIED OVER.....	Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
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; bill died
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 12, 2009. 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 1038    An Act Regarding Screening for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus**

**PUBLIC 346**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODE BRANNIGAN	OTP-AM	H-498

This bill establishes a system for preventing methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, infections in order to improve the health of Maine citizens and the quality of health care. It establishes a system for testing hospital patients for MRSA upon admission and periodically during admission. It requires hospitals to establish procedures and protective measures to minimize exposure to MRSA infection, including procedures with regard to wearing a mask, the use of gloves and gowns, hand washing, washing and disinfecting portions of the patient's room and assignment of staff known to be ill. It requires reporting of positive MRSA test results, whether the patient was infected or colonized prior to admission to the hospital and MRSA deaths. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to disseminate information on MRSA exposure and infection and information reported by hospitals. It requires hospitals to provide information regarding MRSA to staff, patients and former patients. The bill prohibits hospitals and nursing facilities from refusing to admit, readmit or provide treatment or care for a person who has been infected with MRSA on the basis of that person's MRSA status. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules to implement the law.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-498)**

This bill requires all hospitals to perform targeted surveillance for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in high-risk populations, as defined by the Maine Quality Forum, consistent with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2009, chapter 346 requires all hospitals to perform targeted surveillance for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in high-risk populations, as defined by the Maine Quality Forum, consistent with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

**LD 1050    An Act To Establish a Waiting Period for MaineCare Participants**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STRANG BURGESS MILLS P	ONTP	

This bill establishes a waiting period of 30 days before a person may receive assistance except in an emergency situation.