

# 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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# 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 1055**

**An Act To Alter MaineCare Benefits as Allowed by the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005**

**ACCEPTED ONTP  
REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STRANG BURGESS MILLS P	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

This bill imposes cost sharing in the form of premiums and copayments for services, items and prescription drugs in the MaineCare program consistent with the provisions of the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

**LD 1057**

**An Act To Require Hospitals To Make Publicly Available the Cost of Medical Procedures**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEVENS PERRY J	ONTP	

This bill requires hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to post their price lists for their most common inpatient and outpatient procedures and services in an easily accessible place on their publicly accessible websites.

The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services requests by letter that the Maine Hospital Association make its members aware of the comprehensive interactive website, Maine “HealthCost,” which provides access to information on prices of medical procedures at Maine hospitals and other health care facilities. The letter also asks the association to encourage its members to provide information on their websites about health care costs including a link to Maine “HealthCost” and instructions on how to obtain average charges upon request at their health care facility.

**LD 1058**

**Resolve, To Eliminate the Regional Wage Adjustment Applied to Nursing Homes**

**ACCEPTED ONTP  
REPORT**

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

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules regarding principles of reimbursement for nursing facilities to eliminate regional variations in labor costs for purposes of rebasing nursing home expenditures.