

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the Second Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

April 2010

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND 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 Second Regular Session of the 124th 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>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<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 HOUSES</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 of the 124th Legislature is Monday, July 12, 2010. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services

LD 1708

An Act To Expand the Opportunity for Persons To Acquire Health Care Coverage under the State's "Mini-COBRA" Program

PUBLIC 574

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAZUREK DAMON	OTP-AM	H-747

This bill modifies Maine's so-called mini-COBRA law to make persons permanently laid off from their employment eligible to maintain, at their expense, coverage under their former employer's group health plan. Currently, the law limits eligibility to persons who are temporarily laid off or who have a condition that makes them eligible for workers' compensation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-747)

Current law limits eligibility for Maine's so-called mini-COBRA law to persons who are temporarily laid off or who have a condition that makes them eligible for workers' compensation. The bill modifies Maine's so-called mini-COBRA law to make persons permanently laid off from their employment eligible to maintain, at their expense, coverage under their former employer's group health plan. The amendment conditions the eligibility for those permanently laid off on the availability of a subsidy pursuant to federal law.

Enacted Law Summary

Current law limits eligibility for Maine's so-called mini-COBRA law to persons who are temporarily laid off or who have a condition that makes them eligible for workers' compensation. Public Law 2009, chapter 574 modifies Maine's so-called mini-COBRA law to make persons permanently laid off from their employment eligible to maintain, at their expense, coverage under their former employer's group health plan as long as a subsidy is made available pursuant to federal law for those permanently laid off employees.

LD 1709

An Act To Enhance Public Awareness of Lyme Disease

**PUBLIC 494
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LEGG BOWMAN	OTP-AM	H-632

Part A of LD 1709 requires health insurance companies to provide coverage for long-term antibiotic therapy for patients with Lyme disease in all individual and group health insurance policies. The health insurance provisions apply to all policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2011.

Part B of LD 1709 provides protection from a licensing disciplinary action for physicians that prescribe, administer or dispense long-term antibiotic therapy to patients with Lyme disease.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-632)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment does the following.

1. It establishes the month of May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month. It also directs the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to make appropriate information available to the public to improve education and awareness about the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease.