

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

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

July 2011

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 125th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD 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 LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

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; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature is September 28, 2011. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

This bill was carried over to any special and/or regular session of the 125th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1190.

LD 1370 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing General Assistance Programs ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUSHING MASON	ONTP	

This bill seeks to make several changes to the laws governing the administration of the general assistance programs.

1. It clarifies the calculation for determining the pro rata share of the assistance to be provided to eligible household members and requires that the lump sum income proration calculation be based only on actual household need, and not on the greater of the need or 150% of federal poverty level, as is currently required.
2. It increases general assistance program ineligibility from 120 days to 180 days for fraud or a work requirement violation.
3. It amends the provisions governing the use of potential resources to include private assistance programs, such as unemployment insurance benefits, and allows refunds provided under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program, also known as the Circuitbreaker Program, to count as income in the calculation of general assistance program eligibility.
4. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan to provide municipalities with electronic access to the State's automated client eligibility system for determining general assistance program applicant eligibility. Electronic access must be provided to municipalities no later than December 31, 2012.

LD 1393 An Act To Require Estimates of Patient Costs in Any Plan of Care prior to Treatment ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BOLAND FARNHAM	ONTP	

This bill requires a health care provider to provide to a person recommended for a health care procedure or course of treatment a cost estimate of the procedure or treatment, the provider's reasons for the procedure or treatment, other options and their costs and the amount of the cost that will be paid for by the person's insurer. This bill also requires a health care provider to provide a cost estimate to a referring provider on a recommended procedure or course of treatment for a referred patient.