

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

May 2014

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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 resolve requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to combine all of the Department of Health and Human Services' toll-free emergency crisis telephone lines under one toll-free crisis call-in number to be staffed by trained personnel who will assist callers or refer callers to other services as appropriate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Any money saved must be used to fund a public information advertisement campaign to inform the public about the new toll-free crisis call-in number.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-683)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. This amendment replaces the resolve with a resolve directing the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a working group. The working group is required to review the current system for emergency crisis hotline and so-called warm line services and review the report entitled "Peer and Crisis Services" prepared by the Consumer Council System of Maine for the department's Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services and incorporate suggestions from the report in the working group's findings and recommendations. The working group is required to review the benefits and costs of a single easily identifiable telephone number and triage and dispatch system, make recommendations for emergency crisis services hotline and "warm line" services and determine the necessary staffing. The working group is also required to report its findings and recommendations to the department, and the department is required to report those findings and recommendations, together with any necessary legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by November 4, 2014 or by the date that the department issues a new request for proposals for emergency crisis services in 2014, whichever date comes first.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-745)

This amendment amends Committee Amendment "A." The amendment removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause and changes the date by which the working group must convene from April 1, 2014 to no later than two weeks after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

LD 1595

An Act To Preserve Access to Nursing Home Care by Correcting Chronic Shortfalls in MaineCare Reimbursement

Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| FARNSWORTH PATRICK | | |

This bill provides for an increase in MaineCare payments to nursing homes to address a chronic shortfall between audited MaineCare allowable costs and payments for those costs; implements a pay-for-performance program to reward strong performance by nursing homes; and provides for a supplemental payment for facilities at which a high percentage of patients are MaineCare patients.

The Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to adopt emergency rules to take effect retroactively to July 1, 2014 for the establishment of the supplemental MaineCare payments to nursing homes that serve a high percentage of MaineCare residents.

The bill also appropriates state funds and allocates matching federal funds for this increase in MaineCare reimbursement to nursing facilities in the 2014-2015 biennium. See LD 1776 for nursing facilities reimbursement issues.