

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

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

August 2015

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# STATE OF MAINE

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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> 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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 15, 2015. 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**

**LD 470      An Act To Allow Children's Residential Care Facilities To Ensure the Safety of Their Residents**

**PUBLIC 240**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITE WILLETTE	OTP-AM	H-329

This bill allows an administrator of a children's home or children's residential care facility to search a resident's backpack or travel bag and confiscate any items that pose a health or safety risk whenever that resident returns to the facility after an absence.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-329)**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment allows an administrator or other designated staff of a children's home or children's residential care facility to search a resident's backpack or travel bag if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the backpack or travel bag contains misappropriated articles or items that would endanger the health or safety of the resident or other residents. The amended language mirrors current Department of Health and Human Services rules and United States Supreme Court precedent.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 240 allows an administrator or other designated staff of a children's home or children's residential care facility to search a resident's backpack or travel bag if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the backpack or travel bag contains misappropriated articles or items that would endanger the health or safety of the resident or other residents.

**LD 471      An Act To Improve Childhood Vaccination Rates in Maine**

**Veto Sustained**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANBORN KATZ	OTP-AM ONTP	H-426

This bill requires a parent or guardian who is seeking a philosophical exemption to routine childhood vaccination when enrolling a child in school or a licensed day care facility to present written documentation signed by a health care practitioner stating that the health care practitioner has reviewed with the parent information about the risks and benefits of immunization that is consistent with information published by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-426)**

This amendment specifies that a health care practitioner who signs the written documentation verifying that the health care practitioner has reviewed with the parent the risks and benefits of immunization must be authorized to prescribe and administer immunizations.

**LD 472      An Act To Establish Meals on Wheels as a Service Covered under the MaineCare Program**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COOPER BREEN	ONTP	

*Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

This bill allows Meals on Wheels to be reimbursed under the MaineCare program. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for the necessary waivers or state plan amendments from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. It allows those persons who are currently eligible to receive home-delivered meals from Meals on Wheels under department rule but would not otherwise be eligible for the MaineCare program to continue to receive meals.

**LD 473      Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services To Jointly Adopt Rules To Protect Children's Health      Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HYMANSON GRATWICK		

This resolve directs the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to jointly amend their rules on immunization requirements for schoolchildren to establish requirements for what are commonly known as Tdap and meningitis vaccinations before the start of school year 2016-2017.

**LD 474      An Act To Improve Access to Dental Care in Maine      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GATTINE BURNS	ONTP	

This bill provides MaineCare coverage for dental services including diagnostic and preventive services to pregnant and postpartum women and dental services necessary to avoid more costly medical or dental care as identified by a stakeholder group. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide information concerning adult dental benefits to adult MaineCare members and providers. It requires the department to adopt rules relating to the dental coverage by October 1, 2015.

The substance of this bill was incorporated into the majority amendment for LD 860.

**LD 475      Resolve, To Increase MaineCare Services for Certain Recipients To Allow Them To Remain at Home      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STUCKEY		

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules in the MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter 101, Chapter II, Section 29: Support Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autistic Disorder, by April 1, 2015, to increase the combined annual limit for service reimbursement to \$47,550 from the current limit of \$23,771.

This resolve was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.