

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH 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

127TH LEGISLATURE
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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 127th 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 & 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&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>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 127th 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

attended by a licensed medical practitioner.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-193)

This amendment provides an additional exception, beyond the exception established in the bill, to the law mandating a report to the Department of Health and Human Services of suspected abuse or neglect of a child under six months of age for burns or other injuries occurring as a result of medical treatment following the delivery of the child while the child remains hospitalized.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 178 creates exceptions to the law mandating a report to the Department of Health and Human Services of suspected abuse or neglect of a child under six months of age for injuries occurring during birth when the delivery is attended by a licensed medical practitioner and for burns or other injuries occurring as a result of medical treatment following the delivery of the child while the child remains hospitalized.

LD 517 Resolve, To Reconcile Conflicts between the Home and ONTP
Community-based Waiver Program for the Elderly and Adults with
Disabilities and the Requirements of the Department of Health and
Human Services and the Department of Public Safety

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

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Commissioner of Public Safety to convene a stakeholder group to resolve ongoing issues between the home and community-based waiver program for the elderly and adults with disabilities and the requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Safety. The stakeholder group is directed to report with a plan to resolve the issues to the commissioners by May 1, 2015. The commissioners are directed to submit by May 15, 2015 the report and any legislation necessary to implement the plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, which is authorized to submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

LD 524 Resolve, To Develop a Pilot Program for Medication-assisted Recovery Veto Sustained
in a Rural Community at least 30 Miles from Bangor

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRATWICK GOODE	OTP-AM ONTP	S-203

This bill proposes to decrease the cost of and increase access to substance abuse treatment services by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the number of federally qualified health centers that provide methadone treatment services, to establish a pilot clinic location in a rural area at least 30 miles from any currently licensed methadone treatment clinic and to work to facilitate access to services and distribution of services across the State. The bill requires the department to amend the methadone clinic rules to eliminate the requirement that the centers be open for administration of methadone treatment on Sundays. The bill designates the rules as routine technical rules. The department is required to work with stakeholders to address current rules and policies that act as barriers to achieve the intent of this legislation.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-203)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill with a resolve. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a stakeholder group to develop a plan for a pilot program for

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

medication-assisted recovery for individuals working to recover from addiction to opioid substances that is located in a rural community at least 30 miles from Bangor. The Department of Health and Human Services must report the findings of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 1, 2016, and the joint standing committee is authorized to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

**LD 525 Resolve, To Direct the Department of Health and Human Services To
Report on Efforts To Reach in Rural Areas Persons Who Are Elderly,
Disabled or Mentally Ill**

RESOLVE 18

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS HIGGINS	OTP ONTP	

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report on department efforts to reach in rural areas persons who are elderly, disabled or mentally ill. This resolve requires the department, in developing its report, to have at least one public meeting in Piscataquis County and to particularly focus on elderly, disabled and mentally ill persons who are not able to use or who have no access to the Internet and other electronic forms of communication technology or who have limited contact with the department.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 18 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report on department efforts to reach in rural areas persons who are elderly, disabled or mentally ill. It requires the department, in developing its report, to have at least one public meeting in Piscataquis County and to particularly focus on elderly, disabled and mentally ill persons who are not able to use or who have no access to the Internet and other electronic forms of communication technology or who have limited contact with the department.

**LD 526 Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To
Request a Waiver To Prohibit the Use of Food Supplement Benefits for
the Purchase of Taxable Food Items**

**Died Between
Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ HICKMAN	OTP-AM OTP-AM	

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to request a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture to allow Maine to prohibit the use of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for the purchase of taxable food items.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-298)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the resolve. It changes the date by which the Department of Health and Human Services must request a waiver from October 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-299)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the resolve. It changes the date by which the Department of Health and Human Services must request a waiver from October 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish the Healthy Local Foods Initiative Pilot Program to engage in efforts to seek out and support, sustain or assist eligible applicants in submitting proposals for federal grants or funding for pilot projects to improve the diets