

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

STAFF:

ANNA BROOME, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
MICHAEL O'BRIEN, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

AND

LUKE LAZURE, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW
5 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1635

MEMBERS:

SEN. ERIC L. BRAKEY, CHAIR
SEN. EARLE L. MCCORMICK
SEN. ANNE M. HASKELL

REP. DREW GATTINE, CHAIR
REP. PETER C. STUCKEY
REP. MATTHEW J. PETERSON
REP. SCOTT M. HAMANN
REP. CHRISTINE S. BURSTEIN
REP. PATRICIA HYMANSON
REP. DEBORAH J. SANDERSON
REP. RICHARD S. MALABY
REP. FRANCES M. HEAD
REP. KAREN VACHON

STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

of low-income persons enrolled in a statewide food supplement program administered as part of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The department is required to create a working group to make recommendations concerning best practices and criteria for evaluating proposals for federal grants or funding to conduct pilot projects designed to provide incentives to participants of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to improve their diets, reduce obesity and support farmers and businesses in the State. The amendment directs the department to provide the matching funds required of eligible applicants. The amendment establishes within the department the Healthy Local Foods Incentive Fund, which may include funds received from hospital organizations fulfilling United States Internal Revenue Service requirements to meet community health needs.

LD 539 An Act To Increase Utilization of the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center ONTP

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to provide greater utilization of the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center and to provide funding to maximize the center's ability to fulfill the needs of the State.

The substance of this bill was included in Resolve 2015, chapter 44 (see LD 155).

LD 552 An Act To Provide Funding for Home Visiting Services CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAKER MILLETT	OTP-AM	H-161

This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for home visiting services to provide essential child development education and skill development for new parents, which have been shown to reduce child abuse and neglect and to identify and address domestic violence.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-161)

This amendment removes the appropriation for the 2015-16 fiscal year from the bill.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 559 An Act To Notify Parents of a Complaint against a Child Care Facility or a Family Child Care Provider ONTP

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

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to notify in writing the parents and legal guardians of children receiving care at a licensed child care facility or from a certified family child care provider of a complaint's being lodged against the facility or provider, of the department's investigation and of the nature of the complaint. Notification must be sent within five days of the department's commencement of the investigation.