

# 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

**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

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# STATE OF MAINE

127<sup>TH</sup> 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 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*

Services, it requires the school administrative unit to work in consultation with the division of vocational rehabilitation within the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services to include postsecondary preparation strategies for the students during transition planning.

3. Part C requires the Statewide Independent Living Council to provide an annual report to the Legislature on the State's strategic planning efforts to increase opportunities for persons with disabilities to live independently within the community. It also requires the Commissioner of Labor to provide an annual report to the Legislature on the State's efforts to improve vocational rehabilitation outcomes and reduce the length of time it takes the department to enter into an individualized plan of employment with individuals eligible to receive rehabilitation services.

4. Part D amends the Maine Human Rights Act to require an on-site inspection by a representative of the Office of the State Fire Marshal to ensure that new public buildings and certain buildings to which the public has access are constructed in compliance with the Maine Human Rights Act. It also requires the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board to adopt the most recent federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 accessibility guidelines as published by the International Code Council. It also authorizes the agency that is designated by the Governor to serve as the protection and advocacy agency for persons with disabilities in Maine to bring a civil action in Superior Court for violations of the Maine Human Rights Act regarding public accommodations and allows the agency to receive reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

5. Part E requires a housing authority to post all rental housing vacancies that are readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities on the Maine State Housing Authority's publicly accessible rental housing listing service website.

6. Part F requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the federally approved Medicaid state plan to include and broaden coverage for assistive technology without the restrictions currently applied to telehealth; cover assistive technology within all Department of Health and Human Services waivers; include telemedicine; broaden telehealth use; and broaden telehealth home-based care.

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

### **LD 966**      **An Act To Assist Patients in Need of Psychiatric Services**

**CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)

MALABY

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to take steps to help provide acute psychiatric care in an inpatient setting by increasing the availability of inpatient beds. The bill will seek to do the following:

1. Create and fund additional psychiatric beds for geriatric patients;
2. Review and make changes to the bed hold regulations for nursing homes and group homes to create incentives to take difficult mental health patients back after a hospital stay;
3. Review and make changes to the bed hold regulations for nursing homes and group homes to create penalties for facilities that refuse to take difficult mental health patients back after a hospital stay;
4. Provide psychiatric urgent care centers with accompanying medically supervised crisis beds;
5. Create and fund additional psychiatric observation units;

*Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

6. Create an effective and professional mental health placement rapid response team or ombudsman in the Department of Health and Human Services; and

7. Provide additional MaineCare reimbursement for long-stay mental health emergency department patients and patients awaiting placement in psychiatric units.

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

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

**LD 969      An Act To Preserve Jobs and Primary Care Services in Rural and Underserved Areas of Maine      Died On Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ MARTIN J	OTP-AM ONTP	S-68

This bill provides for the allocation of funding among Maine's federally qualified health centers to support access to primary medical, behavioral health and dental services for residents in rural and underserved communities. This funding is targeted to support the provision of primary care services for the uninsured and underinsured, as well as to assist with provider recruitment and retention.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-68)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

Funding for federally qualified health centers was included in Public Law 2015, chapter 267.

**LD 977      An Act To Improve Child Care in the State      Died Between Houses**

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

This bill provides funds to fully match federal funds for child care development.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-287)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, adds a fiscal note.

**LD 989      An Act To Limit the Use of Extended-release Hydrocodone Bitartrate      Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN GRATWICK	ONTP OTP	