

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

LD 1134 An Act To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Distribute Information Regarding Down Syndrome to Providers of Prenatal and Postnatal Care and to Genetic Counselors

PUBLIC 269

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| VOLK LAJOIE | OTP ONTP | H-480 GATTINE |

This bill requires that hospitals, physicians and other health professionals provide information about Down syndrome to expectant or new parents who have received a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to distribute appropriate information to health care providers for distribution.

House Amendment "A" (H-445)

This amendment:

1. Requires that hospitals, physicians and health professionals offer, rather than provide as required by the bill, information to expectant or new parents; and
2. Specifies that the information must have been reviewed by medical experts who are established in the field and by a state-based medical organization.

This amendment was not adopted.

House Amendment "B" (H-480)

This amendment requires that hospitals, physicians and health professionals offer information to expectant or new parents, unlike the bill, which required the provision of that information.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 269 requires that hospitals, physicians and other health professionals offer information about Down syndrome to expectant or new parents who have received a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to distribute appropriate information to health care providers for distribution.

LD 1144 An Act To Ensure the Integrity of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program

Died Between Houses

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

This bill prohibits the use of the electronic benefits transfer system at tobacco specialty stores. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop an education program for recipients of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program that emphasizes that those benefits are to be used for supporting dependent children and are not to be used to pay for tobacco products, liquor products, gambling activities or lotteries. It establishes penalties for benefit recipients who knowingly make a purchase prohibited by statute. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services must collect information on the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program benefits for tobacco and liquor products, gambling activities and lotteries.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

The department is required to report its findings, including recommendations and suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than March 15, 2017.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-320)

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

Senate Amendment "A" (S-312)

This amendment removes the penalties established in the bill. The amendment also removes the requirements for the Department of Health and Human Services to develop an education program for the recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program benefits and to collect information on the costs and impact of implementing and enforcing the prohibitions in the bill.

This amendment was not adopted.

| | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------|
| LD 1149 | Resolve, Directing the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention To Report on Progress toward Meeting Healthy Maine 2020 Goals Pertaining to Reproductive Health | CARRIED OVER |
|----------------|---|---------------------|

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BURSTEIN GRATWICK | | |

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to report by October 1, 2015 to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on state-led efforts to achieve goals identified in its document "Healthy Maine 2020" pertaining to reproductive health. The report must include an explanation of failed or failing efforts to meet a goal and evidence-based strategies or recommendations on how state programs can meet the goal and a description of the State's efforts to improve the health and welfare of its citizens, including efforts to increase high school graduation rates. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

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

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| LD 1162 | An Act To Ensure Safe Drinking Water for Maine Families | Veto Sustained |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GATTINE HASKELL | OTP-AM ONTP | H-333 |

This bill improves testing for and treatment of contaminants in residential private drinking water wells that are otherwise exempt from state and federal safe drinking water laws. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a uniform testing recommendation for testing of residential private drinking water wells. It requires testing when residential private drinking water wells are constructed. The bill also establishes the Private Well Safe Drinking Water Fund to support educational outreach and to improve testing rates of residential private drinking water wells. The fund is funded by fees on the testing of residential private drinking water wells. The bill establishes a fund within the Maine State Housing Authority funded by fees on the installation of water treatment equipment for the purpose of providing persons of low income with affordable water treatment. It also requires the department to conduct educational outreach regarding the potential health effects of contaminants and the need for testing and treatment of residential private drinking water wells.