

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

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

May 2016

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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 Second 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.

*CARRIED OVER*..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or PASSAGE*..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT*..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature is July 29, 2016. 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 1617 An Act Regarding the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program**

**PUBLIC 506**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	S-389

This bill was reported by the committee pursuant to joint order, S.P. 639 and then referred back to the committee for processing in the normal course.

This bill, which is a recommendation of the Commission To Study Difficult-to-place Patients, amends the law governing the long-term care ombudsman program to clarify that the long-term care ombudsman has the authority to act as a resource during the hospital discharge process to assist patients with complex medical needs who experience significant barriers to admission in a residential care facility, nursing facility or assisted living facility or program. It also provides funds to allow the program to contract for two new full-time positions within the program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-389)**

This amendment clarifies that the long-term care ombudsman program is authorized to provide information during and after the hospital discharge process to patients with complex medical needs who experience significant barriers to hospital discharge, including information regarding accessing home and community-based services. The bill includes only reference to assisting patients with barriers to admission to facilities.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 506 amends the law governing the long-term care ombudsman program to clarify that the long-term care ombudsman has the authority to act as a resource during the hospital discharge process to assist patients with complex medical needs who experience significant barriers to admission to a residential care facility, nursing facility, assisted living facility or to home and community-based services. It also provides funds to allow the program to contract for two new full-time positions within the program.

**LD 1618 An Act To Provide Additional Resources for Nurse Education Consultants in the Department of Health and Human Services**

**Died On Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	S-391

This bill was reported by the committee pursuant to joint order, S.P. 639 and then referred back to the committee for processing in the normal course.

This bill, which is a recommendation of the Commission To Study Difficult-to-place Patients, establishes an additional Nurse Education Consultant position within the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-391)**

This amendment changes the amounts appropriated and allocated for an additional Nurse Education Consultant position within the Department of Health and Human Services.