

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2017

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*Committee member for a portion of the session

STATE OF MAINE

128TH 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 128th 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 FINAL 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 128th Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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 480 **An Act To Prioritize Access by Maine's Most Vulnerable Citizens to Welfare Resources**

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SANDERSON D BRAKEY E | ONTP OTP-AM | |

This bill accomplishes the following.

1. It repeals the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a food supplement program for noncitizens who are ineligible for benefits under the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.
2. It repeals the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide supplemental security income for noncitizens who are ineligible for benefits under the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.
3. It repeals the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide financial assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to noncitizens who are ineligible for benefits under the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-302)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It creates a workforce development program to provide to legal immigrants English language classes, citizenship classes, financial literacy classes and training and support for adults and children seeking employment. It permits the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an entity best suited to administer this program and allows the department to adopt rules to implement the program. The amendment provides for funding to implement the program.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 481 **An Act To Promote Workforce Participation**

**PUBLIC 290
EMERGENCY**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| STEWART H CARPENTER M | OTP-AM OTP-AM | H-326 H-548 STEWART H |

This bill increases the amount of income earned by recipients of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program that is disregarded in determining the amount of benefits they receive. The amount of the disregard is lowered over time as recipients make the transition to stable employment.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-326)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-327)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The amendment specifies that beginning July 1, 2019, in determining benefit levels for TANF recipients who have