

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

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 312 enumerates the types of nursing services that must be provided by the Public Health Nursing Program within the Department of Health and Human Services. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to promptly fill all public health nurse positions within the Public Health Nursing Program for which funding is provided as soon as possible after enactment of this Act and no later than March 1, 2018. It prohibits the transfer or otherwise repurposing of any funds appropriated or allocated for the salaries, benefits and other costs of public health nurses and the services they provide. It sets deadlines for staffing and requires the Director of the Public Health Nursing Program under the Department of Health and Human Services to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 15, 2017, and February 15, 2018, on the progress of the department in achieving full staffing of the Public Health Nursing Program.

Public Law 2017, chapter 284, the biennial budget, reinstates several Public Health Nurse positions.

LD 1109 An Act To Improve General Assistance Reimbursements

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN B HAMANN S		

This bill amends the municipal general assistance laws to provide a different method of determining the residence of an applicant and the municipality responsible for providing general assistance to that applicant, including an applicant relocating from another municipality. The bill provides that the municipality of record, which is defined as the municipality in which the applicant resided immediately prior to applying for assistance, is the responsible municipality.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-273)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill and changes the title. It requires a municipality or Indian tribe to be responsible for 30% of the costs of its general assistance program and specifies that the costs incurred by the municipality or Indian tribe for administering the program count toward the 30%. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt routine technical rules to establish appropriate costs for administration. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This bill was reported out of committee and then recommitted to the committee; it was then carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1138.

LD 1110 An Act Concerning Medicaid for Incarcerated Persons about To Be Released

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRATWICK G TUCKER R	ONTP	

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to allow an incarcerated person who has lost Medicaid coverage due to losing a federal benefit provided under the United States Social Security Act while incarcerated to be given the opportunity and assistance to reapply for Medicaid coverage 45 days before release from incarceration.