

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

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

October 2018

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions of the 128<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 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 dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. 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 451 appropriates \$150,000 to the Jackman Community Health Center to ensure sustainable health care access in the Jackman region.

Public Law 2017, chapter 451 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 9, 2018.

### LD 1771 An Act To Stabilize Vulnerable Families

PUBLIC 415

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK A VACHON K	OTP-AM	S-449

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to enact measures designed to help stabilize vulnerable families by encouraging the prioritization of families for subsidized housing and other services.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (S-449)

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a request for proposals for two housing-based programs for mothers affected by substance use disorder who have at least one child under 10 years of age when entering the program. The mothers in the programs must receive stable housing and comprehensive services that support recovery and unification with their children. The services provided include care coordination, health care, child care, early childhood education, home supports, after-school programming, parenting education, treatment for mental health and substance use disorder, postsecondary education, community-based transportation and employment supports. The programs must include data collection to assess long-term recovery outcomes, transition to employment and independence. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section for child care and contracted services in the integrated treatment and recovery for families program.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 415 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a request for proposals for two housing-based programs for mothers affected by substance use disorder who have at least one child under 10 years of age when entering the program. The mothers in the programs must receive stable housing and comprehensive services that support recovery and unification with their children. The services provided include care coordination, health care, child care, early childhood education, home supports, after-school programming, parenting education, treatment for mental health and substance use disorder, postsecondary education, community-based transportation and employment supports. The programs must include data collection to assess long-term recovery outcomes, transition to employment and independence.

### LD 1774 An Act To Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments in Families for Tomorrow

PUBLIC 387

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GIDEON S VOLK A	OTP-AM	H-687

This bill establishes two programs intended to strengthen the financial stability of low-income families with children and individuals through increased access to education and training services and the support services needed to participate.

## *Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

The first program is a food supplement employment and training program that requires partnership agreements to be made between the Department of Health and Human Services and third-party educational institutions or community-based organizations that meet certain standards to provide education, training and support services to eligible adults who are food supplement benefit recipients. This program is supported with federal supplemental nutrition assistance program funds.

The second program is a companion to the current Parents as Scholars Program and is available to persons with minor children who do not qualify for cash assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, who have incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level and who are pursuing a postsecondary degree, industry-recognized certificate or similar credential in a field or occupation that has at least an average job outlook as identified by the Department of Labor. This program is funded with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-687)**

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. It removes the food supplement employment and training program established in the bill. It makes the following changes to the Working Families Parents as Scholars Program.

1. It renames the program the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program and establishes it in a new chapter in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22.
2. It changes eligibility for the program from applicants or participants who are not qualified for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash assistance to those who are qualified but are not receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash assistance.
3. It limits participation in the program to 500 participants.
4. It adds an asset limit for eligibility.
5. It allows the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to limit or suspend the program if sufficient funding is not available.
6. It limits participation for four-year undergraduate degrees to those fields of health care, technology and engineering determined by department rules to allow for changing employment needs in the State.
7. It removes the responsibility for determining aptitude for completion of an educational program and determining satisfactory educational progress from the institution providing the educational program.
8. It removes the provision related to expanding work study opportunities.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 387 establishes the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program. A person eligible to participate in the program must qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families but is not receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash assistance and must be enrolled in an education or training program that results in an industry-recognized certificate, a postsecondary undergraduate two-year degree or a postsecondary four-year degree in a health care, technology or engineering field. The program is limited to no more than 500 participants and may be suspended by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services if there is insufficient funds to support the program.