

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE,
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

August 2019

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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 129th 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 129th Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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 Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

proposed premium rate increase. The law clarifies that notice must be provided by the insurer to all affected individual and group policyholders and others who are directly billed for group coverage. The law specifies that the notice must include certain information, including the proposed rate, information on the policyholder's right to request a hearing and submit written comments on the proposed rate and contact information for the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance.

The law also provides that an increase in a premium rate may not be implemented until approved by the bureau or until the effective date of the premium rate increase, whichever is later.

LD 30

An Act To Improve Health Care Data Analysis

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERRY A SANBORN H		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to improve the State's capacity to use data regarding health care costs and health care systems. The State's ability to better analyze and use data regarding health care utilization and health care quality will serve to inform the State's health care policy.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 38

An Act To Require Insurance Coverage for Hearing Aids for Adults

PUBLIC 418

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HANDY J HERBIG E	OTP-AM	H-241

This bill requires insurance plans to provide coverage for hearing aids at a minimum of \$3,000 per hearing aid to all individuals with documented hearing loss.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-241)

This amendment adds language to clarify the requirement that the purchase of a hearing aid in accordance with the bill's coverage must be done in accordance with federal and state laws, regulations and rules for the dispensing of hearing aids. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section and provides for the calculation and transfer of amounts for premium costs by financial order.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 418 requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage in all individual and group health plans for hearing aids at a minimum of \$3,000 per hearing aid to all individuals with documented hearing loss. The law clarifies that the purchase of a hearing aid must be done in accordance with federal and state laws, regulations and rules for the dispensing of hearing aids.

The law applies to individual and group health plans health plans issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2020.