

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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129TH 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 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

LD 100 **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 270:
Uniform Reporting System for Quality Data Sets, a Major Substantive
Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization** **RESOLVE 9
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP	

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 270: Uniform Reporting System for Quality Data Sets, a major substantive rule of the Maine Health Data Organization.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 9 authorizes final adoption of portions of Chapter 270: Uniform Reporting System for Quality Data Sets, a major substantive rule of the Maine Health Data Organization.

Resolve 2019, chapter 9 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective March 25, 2019.

LD 109 **An Act To Create a Public Health Insurance Option** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S VITELLI E	ONTP	

This bill makes any legally domiciled resident of the State eligible for coverage under the group health plan available to state employees and other eligible persons. The bill permits any resident enrolling in coverage under this provision to do so during an open enrollment period. The bill also adds a reporting requirement to track the experience of those persons enrolling in coverage under the group health plan and the relative effect of that experience on the overall costs of the group health plan.

LD 110 **An Act Regarding Credit Ratings Related to Overdue Medical Expenses** **PUBLIC 77**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOHANSEN C	OTP-AM OTP-AM	H-89

This bill prohibits a consumer reporting agency from reporting debt from overdue medical expenses on a consumer report in a manner that adversely affects the consumer's credit history or credit rating as long as that consumer is making regular, scheduled periodic payments toward the debt.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-89)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment does the following.

1. It prohibits a consumer reporting agency from reporting debt from medical expenses on a consumer's consumer report when the date of the first delinquency on the debt is less than 180 days prior to the date that the debt is reported.

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

2. It requires that a consumer reporting agency remove medical debt on a consumer's consumer report once the credit reporting agency receives information that the debt has been settled in full or paid in full.
3. If a medical debt is reported to a consumer reporting agency, it requires the consumer reporting agency to report that debt in the same manner as debt related to a consumer credit transaction is reported as long as the consumer is making regular, scheduled periodic payments toward the debt as agreed upon by the consumer and medical provider.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-90)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment prohibits a consumer reporting agency from reporting debt from medical expenses on a consumer's consumer report.

This amendment was not adopted.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 77 does the following.

1. It prohibits a consumer reporting agency from reporting debt from medical expenses on a consumer's consumer report when the date of the first delinquency on the debt is less than 180 days prior to the date that the debt is reported.
2. It requires that a consumer reporting agency remove medical debt on a consumer's consumer report once the credit reporting agency receives information that the debt has been settled in full or paid in full.
3. If a medical debt is reported to a consumer reporting agency, it requires the consumer reporting agency to report that debt in the same manner as debt related to a consumer credit transaction is reported as long as the consumer is making regular, scheduled periodic payments toward the debt as agreed upon by the consumer and medical provider.

LD 132 An Act To Eliminate Insurance Rating Based on Age, Geographic Location or Smoking History and To Reduce Rate Variability Due to Group Size ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROOKS H	ONTP	

This bill prohibits insurance carriers providing individual health plans or small group health plans from varying premium rates based on age, geographic location or tobacco use on or after January 1, 2020. The bill also reduces the variation based on group size to 1.5 to 1 for small group plans over time.

See also related bill, LD 1650.

LD 189 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Long-term Care Insurance ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUTCHINS S	ONTP	