

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 AND
HUMAN 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 and Human Services

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a waiver request no later than January 1, 2020 to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement the provisions of this bill that require the department to continue to provide MaineCare coverage to a parent who is a MaineCare member and who is participating in rehabilitation and reunification efforts in accordance with a rehabilitation and reunification plan. The department is required to take all reasonable and necessary steps to seek approval of the waiver. Upon approval of the waiver, the department is directed to adopt rules no later than 180 days after receiving approval. The department is required to report its progress in seeking a waiver and implementing rules on a quarterly basis beginning October 1, 2019 until the process is complete.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-133)

This amendment clarifies that parents who are eligible for the MaineCare program prior to having their minor children removed from the home remain eligible for the MaineCare program if they are engaged in rehabilitation and reunification efforts regardless of any other provision of law. The reference in the bill did not account for new eligibility under Initiated Bill 2017, chapter 1. The amendment also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide an annual report, beginning in 2021, on the number of individuals and families who benefit from this provision.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 130 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a waiver request no later than January 1, 2020, to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to allow the department to continue to provide MaineCare coverage to a parent who was eligible for MaineCare coverage prior to having their minor children removed from the home as long as the parent is participating in rehabilitation and reunification efforts. Upon approval of the waiver, the department is directed to adopt rules no later than 180 days after receiving approval. The department is required to report its progress in seeking a waiver and implementing rules on a quarterly basis beginning October 1, 2019 until the process is complete, and an annual report on the number of individuals and families to whom this provision applies.

LD 222 An Act To Prohibit Child Care Providers from Requiring Payment ONTP **during Vacation Closures**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| PERKINS M | ONTP | |

This bill prohibits a nursery school, a certified family child care provider, a licensed child care facility or a person who provides day care in that person's home for one or two children whose care is paid for by state or federal funds from charging any fee for any period of time the provider is closed because the provider is on vacation. It prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from reimbursing providers of child care services or recipients for child care services for any period of time the provider is closed because the provider is on vacation.

LD 227 An Act To Strengthen Maine's Public Health Infrastructure CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| PERRY A CARSON B | | |

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to strengthen the State's public health infrastructure by:

1. Identifying community-level geographic regions where essential public health services, including competent and

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

qualified comprehensive community health coalitions, can be funded equitably;

2. Ensuring that basic and essential public health services be delivered in each public health district and tribal health district;
3. Identifying emerging nonclinical public health workers, including community health workers, community paramedics, recovery coaches and resiliency coaches, who can strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of public health service delivery;
4. Facilitating, when possible, the integration and collaboration of public and private public health professionals with public safety professionals and emergency preparedness professionals; and
5. Enabling the operation of public health professionals, public safety professionals and emergency preparedness professionals as a cohesive and coordinated public health team to improve the visibility and understanding of public health among Maine children and adults.

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

LD 230 An Act To Improve Access to Preventive, Cost-saving Dental Services ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MARTIN J JACKSON T | ONTP | |

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to establish a managed care dental services program within the MaineCare program. It also proposes to provide coverage under the MaineCare program for adult preventive dental services and comprehensive dental services.

LD 231 An Act To Improve Public Health by Maximizing Federal Funding Opportunities CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| PERRY A CARSON B | | |

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to increase federal funding to improve the State's public health outcomes and workforce by designating the Maine Public Health Institute within the University of Southern Maine's Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service as an agent of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of applying for federal funds to support public health research and programming. To provide guidance to the Maine Public Health Institute in carrying out this duty, this bill would establish an advisory board composed of officials from the department, including the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and representatives of statewide public health organizations and care providers. The bill would require that the Maine Public Health Institute report every two years to the department and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.