

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

LD 578 Resolve, To Create a Pilot Program To Assist the Transition to Recovery of Persons Suffering from Opioid Use Disorder ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HYMANSON P BELLOWS S	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to develop a pilot program designed to assist the transition to recovery of persons suffering from opioid use disorder. The resolve directs the commissioner, by December 2, 2020, to submit a written report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters summarizing the results of the pilot program, together with any recommendations for continuation of the program, and authorizes the joint standing committee to submit a bill relating to the subject matter of the report to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

LD 583 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Study the State's Long-term Services and Supports System for Older Adults ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FAY J MOORE M	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to perform a study to determine how to most efficiently manage and fund the various long-term care support programs for older adults operated by the department. It allows the department to accept outside funding to fund the costs of the study and directs the department to report by January 15, 2020, the results of the study to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, which is authorized to report out a bill regarding the results of the study to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

LD 593 Resolve, To Stabilize the Behavioral Health Workforce and Avert More Expensive Treatments CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BREEN C MADIGAN C	OTP-AM ONTP	S-143 S-161 BREEN C

This resolve provides funding to increase rates by 8% in rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services. The resolve also specifies that the increase in reimbursement rates must be applied to wages and benefits for employees who provide direct care services and not to administrators or managers and that to qualify for the rate increase an agency providing services must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Department of Health and Human Services, that an increase in wages and benefits has been granted to employees providing direct care services that equals the amount of the projected increase in reimbursement to be received.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-143)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, updates the appropriations and allocations section to reflect a more recent estimate of the cost.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-161)

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

This amendment removes the emergency preamble and clause and changes the date by which the Department of Health and Human Services must amend its rule.

This resolve was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 606 Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Provide Cost-based Reimbursement to Maine Veterans' Homes Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI L GATTINE D	OTP-AM	S-120

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules governing MaineCare reimbursement in order to provide cost-based reimbursement to Maine Veterans' Homes nursing facilities.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-120)

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Public Law 2019, chapter 343 (the biennial budget), Part XXXX, provided one-time funding of \$750,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium for supplemental payments to Maine Veterans' Homes nursing facilities.

LD 613 Resolve, Concerning the Adoption of Rules To Carry Out the Purpose of the Bridging Rental Assistance Program RESOLVE 60

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

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules for the Bridging Rental Assistance Program in order to ensure fairness, equity and access to the program for those persons with mental illness who qualify for the program. The department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services if the department anticipates a delay in the adoption of the rules.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 60 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules for the Bridging Rental Assistance Program in order to ensure fairness, equity and access to the program for those persons with mental illness who qualify for the program. The department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services if the department anticipates a delay in the adoption of the rules.

LD 615 An Act To Protect the Integrity of the MaineCare Program PUBLIC 266

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HYMANSON P GRATWICK G	OTP-AM	H-306

This bill provides that, without authorization from the Legislature by proper enactment of a law, the Department of Health and Human Services may not implement changes in the Medicaid program or the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program that significantly change enrollment in the program, the category or scope of covered