

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
129<sup>TH</sup> 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 129<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 date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 129<sup>th</sup> 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 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

*Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

services or the funding mechanisms for the program, unless required by federal law.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-306)**

This amendment, which is the unanimous report of the committee, adds language describing the situations in which the Department of Health and Human Services may not implement changes in the Medicaid program or the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program without proper authorization from the Legislature.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 266 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 services or the funding mechanisms for the program, unless required by federal law.

**LD 633      An Act To Create a Kinship Care Navigator Program within the      CARRIED OVER**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WARREN C BELLOWS S	OTP-AM	H-195

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to appoint one person to administer all issues related to the placement of a child with a relative.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-195)**

This amendment, which is the unanimous report of the committee, replaces the bill. It establishes within the Department of Health and Human Services the kinship care navigator program to provide resources and information to persons providing kinship care to children in the State. It requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to designate one person to administer the program. It also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This bill 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 646      An Act To Improve Trust with Regard to Home Visitation by the      ONTP**  
**Department of Health and Human Services by Requiring That Certain**  
**Visits Be Videotaped**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOUDERA V	ONTP	

This bill requires Department of Health and Human Services staff who visit the home of a child to investigate or assess an allegation of abuse or neglect to videotape all interviews conducted during the visit.

**LD 653      Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Study Opportunities for      CARRIED OVER**  
**Improving Home and Community-based Services**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COOPER J SANBORN H		