

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

**STAFF:**

ANNA BROOME, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
ERIN DOOLING, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
AND  
LUKE LAZURE, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW  
5 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1635  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. GEOFFREY M. GRATWICK, CHAIR  
SEN. NED CLAXTON  
SEN. MARIANNE MOORE  
  
REP. PATRICIA HYMANSON, CHAIR  
REP. MARGARET CRAVEN  
REP. ANNE C. PERRY  
REP. COLLEEN M. MADIGAN  
REP. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS  
REP. MICHELE MEYER  
REP. HOLLY B. STOVER  
REP. BETH A. O'CONNOR  
REP. KATHY IRENE JAVNER  
REP. ABIGAIL W. GRIFFIN

# STATE OF MAINE

129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## 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 bill accomplishes the following.

1. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to seek a waiver beginning with federal fiscal year 2020, which begins October 1, 2019, and for each federal fiscal year thereafter to allow individuals otherwise subject to a three-month limit on federal food supplement program benefits to continue to receive benefits if those individuals reside in counties, labor market areas or other areas that qualify for a waiver because of high unemployment or a lack of a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for those individuals.
2. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to calculate the amount of the food stamp standard utility allowance using reliable data reflecting actual utility costs in Maine.
3. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to request the United States Department of Agriculture to waive the asset test for determining the eligibility for the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program of any household in which there is an individual who is 60 years of age or older or an individual with a disability or that does not include children.

**LD 761**

### **An Act To Ensure That Incarcerated Individuals Are Eligible for Medicaid during Incarceration and Receive Food Supplement Program Benefits upon Release**

**PUBLIC 492**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>            | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| TALBOT ROSS R<br>CARPENTER M | OTP-AM                  | H-404                     |

This bill clarifies current law regarding Medicaid eligibility for incarcerated individuals to ensure that individuals who are eligible for Medicaid coverage are able to renew their coverage while they are incarcerated and also establishes a mechanism to ensure that individuals who are uninsured and eligible for Medicaid coverage are able to apply for coverage while they are incarcerated. The bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide Medicaid coverage for treatment received by an incarcerated person outside a correctional facility as long as, at the time treatment is provided, the person is eligible for Medicaid.

#### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-404)**

This amendment, which is the unanimous report of the committee, clarifies the provisions in the bill regarding presumptive eligibility. It also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for a waiver in order to provide food supplement program benefits to a person being released from incarceration. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections to enter into a memorandum of understanding in order to assist an incarcerated person with applying for Medicaid benefits and food supplement program benefits. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 492 clarifies current law regarding Medicaid eligibility for incarcerated individuals to ensure that individuals who are eligible for Medicaid coverage are able to renew their coverage while they are incarcerated. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections to enter into a memorandum of understanding in order to assist an incarcerated person with applying for Medicaid benefits and food supplement program benefits. It provides that persons who are uninsured and eligible for Medicaid receive presumptive eligibility at the time of medical treatment. It also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for a waiver in order to provide food supplement program benefits to a person being released from incarceration.