

# 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 bill requires that the Department of Health and Human Services ensure that a caseworker in the Office of Child and Family Services is not assigned a number of cases that exceeds a number established by the department by rule. The number established by the department must be a number recommended by a national organization with expertise in maximum case loads that ensures caseworkers can adequately focus on each case. The bill also provides that the number of caseworkers assigned to any individual support staff may not exceed eight.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-209)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to review case load standards for child welfare caseworkers and develop standard case load recommendations with input from child welfare caseworkers and the Public Consulting Group. The Public Consulting Group is currently contracted with the department to evaluate the child welfare program. The department is required to submit a report by October 1, 2019 with its findings and recommendations and then submit annual reports on staffing in the child welfare program in relation to the standard case load recommendations. The reports are submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint legislative committee established to oversee program evaluation and government accountability matters. The amendment adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2019, chapter 34 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to review case load standards for child welfare caseworkers and develop standard case load recommendations with input from child welfare caseworkers and the Public Consulting Group. The Public Consulting Group is currently contracted with the department to evaluate the child welfare program. The department is required to submit a report by October 1, 2019, with its findings and recommendations and then submit annual reports on staffing in the child welfare program in relation to the standard case load recommendations. The reports are submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint legislative committee established to oversee program evaluation and government accountability matters.

Resolve 2019, chapter 34 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 21, 2019.

### **LD 836 An Act To Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HANDY J BELLOWS S	OTP-AM ONTP	H-158

This bill provides ongoing funding to the school-based health centers within the Fund for a Healthy Maine program within the Department of Health and Human Services to add an additional 15 school-based health center sites.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-158)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, removes the reference to 15 new school-based health centers from the bill but retains the funding amount. The Department of Health and Human Services distributes the funding through a request for proposals process for the number of sites the funding will support.

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.