

# 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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# STATE OF MAINE

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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***

**LD 838      Resolve, To Ensure the Continuation of Services to Maine Children and Families      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEEBE-CENTER P MOORE M	ONTP	

Resolve 2017, chapter 56 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to continue certain contractual agreements entered into by the department with Community Partnerships for Protecting Children until January 31, 2019. This resolve amends that resolve to require the department to extend the contractual agreements until at least the termination date specified in the contractual agreement. This resolve applies retroactively to January 31, 2019.

**LD 864      An Act To Make Whole Family Support Available Statewide      Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEWART T JACKSON T		

This bill requires community action agencies to establish support programs to serve families to assist parents with children as they pursue stable employment, pursue education intended to lead to employment or otherwise pursue self-sufficiency. The bill also provides funding for community action agencies to establish the support programs.

**LD 876      Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services To Build Peer Respite Program Capacity in Maine by Implementing at Least One Peer Respite Program      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MADIGAN C DESCHAMBAULT S	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services to implement by means of a request-for-proposals process at least one peer respite program in the State to provide a voluntary, short-term residential program designed to support individuals experiencing, or at risk of, a psychiatric crisis.

**LD 880      Resolve, Regarding the Impact of Minimum Wage Increases and Paid Time Off Requirements on MaineCare Reimbursement Rates      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HYMANSON P	OTP-AM	H-470

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to provide methods of allowing the State to respond more quickly to changes in federal law affecting social programs used by citizens of Maine.

*Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-470)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to study the impact of increases in the minimum wage and any statutory requirements for earned paid leave on the reimbursement rates for all services reimbursed under the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III. The department is required to develop an assessment of future shortfalls and develop a plan to ensure that reimbursement rates remain sufficient to cover any future increases. The department may consult or contract with any experts or stakeholders that the department determines appropriate. The department shall report its findings, recommendations and suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than March 1, 2020.

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 915      An Act To Provide Adequate Reimbursement under MaineCare for Ambulance and Neonatal Transport Services      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T DILLINGHAM K	OTP-AM	S-104

This bill specifies that beginning September 1, 2019 the reimbursement rate for ambulance services under the MaineCare program may not be less than the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare and reimbursement for neonatal transport services under MaineCare must be at the average rate for critical care transport services under Medicare.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-104)**

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to provide funding to increase the reimbursement rate for ambulance services.

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.

The substance of this bill was incorporated in Public Law, chapter 530 (LD 1028 in TAX).

**LD 931      An Act To Reduce Obesity by Reimbursing for Prescription Drug Therapy Provided by a Member of a Weight Management Team      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HYMANSON P	OTP-AM ONTP	H-138

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the laws governing the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-138)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes the bill, which is a concept draft, to provide for reimbursement under the MaineCare program for prescription drug therapy services to treat obesity. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.