

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 COVERAGE,
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL 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.

LD 1274 An Act To Enact the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program

PUBLIC 522

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANBORN L GRAMLICH L	OTP-AM	S-110 S-338 BREEN C

This bill establishes the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to provide support for consumers, including prospective consumers, of health insurance and to health insurance customer assistance programs and health insurance ombudsman programs. Some of the services the new program may provide include assisting with filing complaints and appeals regarding decisions made by a group health plan, health insurance carrier or independent review organization and obtaining health insurance premium tax credits on behalf of consumers. The Superintendent of Insurance is required to contract with a nonprofit, independent health insurance consumer assistance entity that is not an insurer to operate the consumer assistance program, and funding is provided for that requirement.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-110)

This amendment transfers the responsibility for contracting for the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program from the Bureau of Insurance to the Attorney General. The amendment also makes other clarifying changes to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-338)

This amendment requires, in fiscal year 2019-20 and fiscal year 2020-21, the State Controller to transfer \$200,000 from available balances in the Bureau of Insurance Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to the Department of the Attorney General. The amendment also provides an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation to the Department of the Attorney General and makes other technical changes.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 522 establishes the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program to provide support for consumers, including prospective consumers, of health insurance and to health insurance customer assistance programs and health insurance ombudsman programs. The services the new program will provide include assisting with filing complaints and appeals regarding decisions made by a group health plan, health insurance carrier or independent review organization and obtaining health insurance premium tax credits on behalf of consumers. The Attorney General is required to contract with a nonprofit, independent health insurance consumer assistance entity that is not an insurer to operate the consumer assistance program.

LD 1281 Resolve, To Create a Committee To Explore Regional Cooperation for Affordable Health Insurance

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TEPLER D FOLEY R	ONTP	

This resolve establishes the Committee To Explore Regional Cooperation for Affordable Health Insurance, which is required to study providing a more affordable health insurance option to middle-income individuals and small businesses, including convening a multistate conference to draft a proposal for a nonprofit health insurance cooperative.