

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

November 2020

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STATE OF MAINE

129TH 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 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.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

preventive oral health services provided in schools through the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, rural health and primary care division's oral health program, including the number of schools and children served and the results of those services, which populations and geographic areas are not being covered by the services provided by the program and whether additional funding is needed. The department shall submit a report, no later than February 15, 2020, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over oral health matters. It also establishes the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment Dental Coordinator in the Office of MaineCare Services.

LD 1403 An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN M CHIPMAN B	OTP-AM ONTP	H-514

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill establishes presumptive eligibility for general assistance for persons who are provided shelter at emergency shelters for the homeless. It also reestablishes the 90% reimbursement rate for municipalities that incur net general assistance costs in any fiscal year in excess of .0003 of that municipality's most recent state valuation, which was amended in Public Law 2015, chapter 267, Part SSSS. It retains the 70% reimbursement rate for other municipalities and Indian tribes for costs below the .0003% of all state valuation amount.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-514)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, removes the section of the bill relating to presumptive eligibility. It also grants 100% reimbursement for general assistance costs to Indian tribes. It clarifies that the municipality's most recent state valuation rather than the all state valuation is used for calculating when a municipality begins to be reimbursed 90% for general assistance costs and that the reimbursement is for gross costs rather than net costs. It establishes that the new departmental reimbursement to municipalities begins July 1, 2020.

This bill was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1404 Resolve, To Provide Support Services and Funds To Prevent Homelessness

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN M CHIPMAN B	OTP-AM ONTP	H-368

This resolve was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a waiver from the requirements of federal law and regulations to allow Maine to provide Medicaid-funded direct support services to individuals experiencing homelessness. In addition, the bill provides ongoing funds to the Housing First Assistance Program established within the Maine State Housing Authority to be distributed to community action agencies to assist individuals on the verge of becoming homeless.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Committee Amendment "A" (H-368)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, clarifies that the Department of Health and Human Services is required to examine opportunities to provide home and community-based services to individuals experiencing homelessness using a state plan amendment option under Section 1915(i) of the federal Social Security Act or any other Medicaid-funded mechanism that may be appropriate. It requires the department to report its progress in examining options and submitting a waiver to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The amendment also corrects the appropriations and allocations section to reflect funding from the Temporary Housing Assistance Fund and changes the initiative language to be more consistent with the statute governing the fund.

This resolve was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1417	An Act To Expand Access to Head Start To Assist Opioid-affected and Other At-risk Families	CARRIED OVER
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREIGHT J SANBORN L	OTP-AM ONTP	H-265

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill establishes eligibility standards for the Head Start program that allow participation for a child up to five years of age who is or whose family is affected by substance use disorder or whose family's income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. This bill also provides appropriations to be distributed to nontribal Head Start program service providers proportionately in an amount based upon the percentage of children up to five years of age who live at or below the federal poverty level in each provider's service area compared to the percentage of children up to five years of age who live at or below the federal poverty level statewide, with preference given to children who are at risk or whose families are at risk.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-265)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, clarifies that eligibility for the Head Start program is limited to children who have not met the minimum age requirement to enroll in a school administrative unit in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 5201, subsection 2.

This bill was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, still to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1418	An Act To Address Maine's Shortage of Behavioral Health Services for Minors	CARRIED OVER
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREIGHT J SANBORN L		

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.