

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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

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STAFF:

ANNA BROOME, PRINCIPAL ANALYST
SAMUEL SENFT, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

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**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILLS AND
SUMMARIES OF ENACTED LAWS**

This *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* provides the disposition of all LDs and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Maine Legislature. Please note that all LDs and proposed amendments may be found through the Legislature’s webpage, and each includes a summary of what the bill or amendment proposed.

The *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* is arranged alphabetically by committee. Within each committee section is a subject index of all LDs considered by that committee as well as a digest of the LDs, arranged by LD number. Also included are enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed. Brief analyst notes on certain LDs are also included: a committee digest will indicate if additional notes are provided for an LD. These notes add information staff found useful and may provide useful information to users of this *Digest*; please note that most LDs do not have a note and lack of a note should not be interpreted as having any significance. A separate section of the *Digest* provides a digest of the relatively few LDs that were not referred to a committee or reported from a committee as a committee bill; enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed are provided. Finally, an appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

The final disposition of each LD is noted in the relevant summary digest and index. 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 and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature is Thursday, June 29, 2023 and Wednesday, October 25, 2023, respectively. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

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LD 1229 An Act to Provide Information to Parents Involved in the Child Protective Services System and Ensure Funding in the Child Protective Services Contingency Fund

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 447 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an entity to provide free virtual classes that are conducted in real time and facilitated by peers to parents who are involved in the child protective services system. The contracted entity must conduct activities that maximize outreach to parents that qualify, promote the classes to parents and providers and provide one-on-one follow-up with parents who participate in the classes. The law provides one-time funding in fiscal year 2024-25 and also designates the Child Protective Services Contingency Fund as a nonlapsing fund.

LD 1248 An Act to Ensure the Quality of Bottled Water

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 330 requires persons that extract water in this State to be sold as bottled water to conduct testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in the bottled water. It prohibits the sale of bottled water by a bottler that contains a PFAS contaminant in an amount that exceeds state or federal standards. The law also imposes reporting requirements on persons that extract water in this State to be sold as bottled water and includes requirements for the bottler and the Department of Health and Human Services to post testing results to publicly accessible websites.

LD 1325 An Act to Make Permanent the Submission of Certain Reports Concerning Child Welfare to the Legislature

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 261 requires reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, at least every three months, from the Child Death and Injury Review Panel and the Child Welfare Advisory Panel. The reports must include: a summary of generalized and anonymized observations of efforts of the Office and Child and Family Services to improve the child welfare system; recommendations on how to further protect the State's children; and a summary of collaboration between the Child Death and Injury Review Panel, the Child Welfare Advisory Panel and the judicial branch's Justice for Children Task Force.

The law requires the Office of Child and Family Services to provide quarterly reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The reports must include: prevention efforts; training programs; development and implementation of strategic plans, priorities and initiatives; data reports; staffing updates; child placements; implementation of requirements in prior enacted bills or budgets; interactions with citizen review

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panels; and any other subject matter requested by the committee. Resolve 2021, chapter 142 required quarterly reports for a limited period and Public Law 2023, chapter 261 makes those reports permanent but with some changes to the content. Public Law 2023, chapter 261 also clarifies that the Child Welfare Advisory Panel shall provide an annual report to the Legislature, rather than the Department of Health and Human Services providing the annual report.

LD 1417 Resolve, to Ensure Efficiency and Effectiveness in Maine’s Licensing and Certification of Behavioral Health Services

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 57 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that its rules governing the licensing of mental health facilities avoids, as much as possible, standards that require duplicate licensing visits and surveys of behavioral health agencies and allows instead any equivalent standards by either national or state accrediting or licensing bodies. The rules must ensure that services are safe and meeting quality requirements, license by agency and not by service or facility site unless prohibited by federal Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration or other applicable federal requirements and reduce duplication of effort on the part of providers as much as possible. The department must submit a report on progress, no later than February 15, 2024 to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the committee is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature if more legislative action is necessary.

LD 1439 An Act to Promote Family-centered Interventions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 463 requires a hospital to post in a publicly accessible area of its emergency department information provided by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding how individuals with substance use disorder can access evidence-based treatment services. It provides \$30,000 in one-time grant funds to support substance use disorder treatments that include family members of the person with substance use disorder, including community reinforcement and family training interventions.

LD 1474 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Expedite Reimbursement of Long-term Care Facilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 121 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 67, Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, and Chapter III, Section 97, Private Non-Medical