



OPLA~Notes

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Prescription Drugs Initiative

I. Overview of Public Law 1999, chapter 786

Public Law 1999, chapter 786, An Act to Establish Fairer Pricing for Prescription Drugs, was passed by the 119th Legislature during its Second Regular Session and was signed into law by Governor Angus King on May 11, 2000. The new law enacts a reduced price prescription drug program administered by the Department of Human Services for all Maine residents beginning January 1, 2001, prohibits profiteering in prescription drugs and provides for emergency prescription drug prices beginning July 1, 2003 if the prices paid for drugs has not decreased by that date.

A. Maine Rx program

The Maine Rx program is designed to enable Maine residents to purchase prescription drugs at a discount, with the State serving as a pharmacy benefits manager and negotiating rebates from participating drug manufacturers. With the exception of the first few months of operation, which are funded by a loan of \$4,582,500 from the Trust Fund for a Healthy Maine, the negotiated rebates from the manufacturers provide the funding for the discounts given to the consumers. All residents who pay for their own prescription drugs are eligible for a Maine Rx program card, which will be available from the Department of Human Services to any person showing evidence of residency and lacking health care coverage that pays for prescription drugs.

Newsletter Greetings

Welcome to this edition of OPLA~Notes. This edition includes an article that provides an overview of the Fairer Pricing for Prescription Drugs Act recently passed by the Maine Legislature, including information on pending litigation regarding the Act. This newsletter also includes an article on Maine's three sex offender registration and notification laws, as well as other sex offender initiatives approved by the Legislature. Lastly, the newsletter includes an update on the status of studies approved by the Legislature for the current interim.

Participation in the Maine Rx program by prescription drug manufacturers is voluntary, although the law includes some incentives to encourage manufacturers to participate. These provisions include the following:

- The Department of Human Services is directed to publicize the names of manufacturers who do not participate in the Maine Rx program.
- To the extent allowed by law, the Department of Human Services is directed to impose prior authorization requirements for the Medicaid program for the dispensing of drugs from manufacturers who do not participate.
- The law ties together participation in the Maine Rx program by manufacturers and the distribution of prescription drugs under the Elderly Low-Cost Drug program, 22 MRSA §254, and other publicly supported pharmaceutical assistance programs.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, currently 28 drug companies have signed onto the state's RX drug program.

B. Profiteering in prescription drugs

Public Law 1999, chapter 786, prohibits profiteering in prescription drugs by manufacturers, distributors and labelers. Conduct that is prohibited includes charging unconscionable prices, reaping unjust or unreasonable profits, unreasonably discriminating regarding prescription drugs or restricting the sale of drugs in the state in retaliation for a provision of the law. Legal remedies may include injunctive relief, triple damages and costs and penalties up to \$100,000 for each violation.

C. Emergency prescription drug prices

By January 5, 2003, the Commissioner of Human Services is required to determine whether the cost of prescription drugs under the Maine Rx program is reasonably comparable to the lowest cost paid for the same drugs delivered or dispensed in the State. If the average cost for one or more prescription drugs in the Maine Rx program is not reasonably comparable, the Commissioner is required to establish maximum retail prices for any or all prescription drugs sold in the state, beginning July 1, 2003. The Commissioner may take actions regarding prescription drug prices in or-

der to protect the public health and welfare. In carrying out the duties imposed by this law, the Commissioner is required to consult with the Prescription Drug Advisory Commission, a new 12-person group comprising members of the public, pharmacists, members of the health care community, and the Director of the Bureau of Medical Services in the Department of Human Services and the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Responsibility.

D. Agreements with other jurisdictions

The law authorizes the State to negotiate and enter into purchasing alliances and regional strategies with other political jurisdictions and with public and private entities. The purpose of these agreements is to reduce prescription drug prices for residents of Maine.

- Lawmakers from the northeastern states have formed the Northeast Legislative Association on Prescription Drug Prices to serve as a clearinghouse for research and information, to provide a forum for the discussion, development and coordination of public policy strategies to reduce prescription drug prices and provide greater access to pharmacy benefits at a fair price, to encourage and support legislation, to foster communication with members of Congress and federal officials, and to urge development and enhancement of federal and state insurance assistance programs offering prescription drug coverage.
- Governor Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Governor Howard Dean of Vermont and Governor Angus King of Maine have taken action to explore the use of a pharmacy benefit manager to administer a prescription drug plan for residents of the 3 states. The buying pool would initially cover uninsured residents and then could be expanded to cover state employees and enrollees in the states' Medicaid programs.

E. Other provisions

Other provisions of the law include the following:

- If maximum retail prices are established, a drug formulary in the Elderly Low-Cost Drug program will be adopted and prior authorization requirements on drugs on the formulary imposed.

- Beginning July 1, 2001, prescription drug manufacturers that participate in the Medicaid program will be required to participate in the rebate program of the Elderly Low-Cost Drug program.
- If maximum retail drug prices are established, additional prior authorization requirements will be imposed on prescription drugs priced above the maximum prices.

II. Pending litigation regarding Public Law 1999, chapter 786

On August 10, 2000, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, Civil Case Number 00-157B, asking for a declaratory judgment, a preliminary and permanent injunction, costs and attorneys' fees and such other relief as the Court deems proper.

In the lawsuit PhRMA challenges the provisions of the Act that require prescription drug manufacturers to participate in the Maine Rx program in order to participate in the Medicaid program as well as the provisions that prohibit profiteering in prescription drugs.

- PhRMA alleges that the requirement of participation in the Maine Rx program as a condition of eligibility for drugs to be distributed under the Medicaid program violates federal Medicaid law and is contrary to the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution.
- With regard to the authority of the Commissioner of Human Services to negotiate rebate agreements with prescription drug manufacturers, PhRMA alleges that the law infringes on business transactions taking place out of state that are protected by the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution, tying too close a connection between business done in Maine and business done elsewhere.
- Regarding the prohibition on profiteering in prescription drugs, PhRMA alleges that Maine law attempts to regulate business done outside of Maine and prevents drug manufacturers from modifying their current business practices, some or all of which pertain to out of state transactions. PhRMA alleges that this

contradicts the principles of the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The defendants, Kevin Concannon, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Human Services, and Andrew Ketterer, Attorney General of the State of Maine, have filed their answer and memorandum of law in opposition to the plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction.

- In these documents the defendants allege that the balance of harms, the public interest and the lack of irreparable harm to the plaintiff all weigh against issuing a preliminary injunction.
- The defendants allege that the plaintiff has not shown a likelihood of success on the merits of its argument that the Maine Rx program violates the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.
- The defendants in their answer further claim that the plaintiff has not shown a strong likelihood of success on the merits of its claim that the prior authorization provisions of the Act conflict with federal law in violation of the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution.
- Lastly, the defendants allege that PhAMRA's challenge to the antiprofitteering statute does not present a justifiable case or controversy and that the court may not issue a declaratory judgment under those circumstances.

The U.S. District Court has not scheduled a hearing date for the plaintiff's request for a preliminary injunction.

Did You Know?.....



The Great Fire of 1947 burned a total of 10,000 acres in Acadia National Park. Property damage exceeded 23 million dollars. Although the fire on Mount Desert Island was publicized in news headlines in newspapers around the world because the island was a summer retreat for the wealthy, many other serious fires occurred statewide that same year. The

fires ruined over 200,000 acres of land, 851 permanent homes and 397 seasonal cottages.



Maine is the only state in the United States whose name has one syllable.

Recent Legal Issues



SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION & NOTIFICATION LAWS

Maine currently has 3 individual acts governing the tracking of convicted sex offenders. Approximately 8 years ago, pursuant to the Sex Offender Registration Act, the Maine Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification began maintaining a registry of convicted sex offenders who were sentenced on or after June 30, 1992. (See MRSA Title 34-A, chapter 11.) In 1996, the Legislature expanded the scope of sex offender tracking to include notification of a sex offenders' release back into the community to law enforcement and certain members of the public in the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. (See MRSA Title 34-A, chapter 13.) In 1999, the Legislature amended the definition of "sex offender" to include more convicted offenders in the State's registry system under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999. In an effort to avoid constitutional challenges based upon offenders being subject to requirements not in law at the time of sentencing, the Legislature has retained each act in its entirety. To date, these acts have not been challenged on constitutional grounds.

This article provides an overview of the 3 acts that establish requirements for sex offender registration and notification and briefly describes the differences among the 3 acts (*please see Table 1 on page 7*). The article also summarizes a recent law that allows for stricter sentencing of sexually violent predators.

I. Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA of 1992)

A. Application

Maine's SORA of 1992 applies to sex offenders sentenced on or after June 30, 1992 and before September 1, 1996. For purposes of this act, "sex offender" means an individual convicted of gross sexual assault if the victim was less than 16 years of age at the time of the crime. ("Gross sexual assault" is Maine's equivalent to the crime of rape and is defined under Title 17-A MRSA §253.)

B. Offender's registration duties

The SORA of 1992 requires a sex offender to register that offender's address with the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification for 15 years after the offender's release.

C. Registration violations

A sex offender who fails to register or update registration information commits a Class E crime. A Class E crime is punishable by up to 6 months of incarceration and a fine not to exceed \$1,000.

II. Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA of 1996)

The SORNA of 1996 differs from the SORA of 1992 by slightly expanding the definition of "sex offender," by increasing the penalty for violation of registration requirements and by adding a notification component that provides law enforcement and the public greater access to information about sex offenders.

A. Application

The SORNA of 1996 applies to sex offenders sentenced on or after September 1, 1996 and before September 18, 1999. For purposes of this act, "sex offender" means an individual convicted of gross sexual assault if the victim was less than 16 years of age at the time of the crime or an individual found not criminally responsible for committing gross sexual assault by reason of mental disease or defect if the victim was less than 16 years of age at the time of the crime.

B. Offender's registration duties

As in the SORA of 1992, the SORNA of 1996 requires a sex offender to register that offender's address with the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification for 15 years after the offender's release.

C. Registration violations

A sex offender who fails to register or update registration information commits a Class D crime, except that a violation of this section when the offender has 2 or more prior convictions for registration violations commits a Class C crime. A Class D crime is punishable by less than one year of incarceration and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. A Class C crime is punishable by less than 5 years of incarceration and a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

D. Notification

The SORNA of 1996 adds the element of notification, which gives law enforcement new responsibilities. When a sex offender is conditionally released or discharged, the Department of Corrections must notify the State Bureau of Identification of the address where the sex offender will reside, the address where the sex offender will work, the geographic area to which the sex offender's release may be limited and the status of the sex offender when released as determined by a risk assessment instrument used by the Department of Corrections. The risk assessment instrument is a tool used by the Department of Corrections to determine the appropriate level of supervision once the sex offender is released from incarceration.

Upon receiving this information, the State Bureau of Identification must forward the information to all law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction in those areas where the sex offender may work or reside.

The Department of Corrections and law enforcement agencies that receive registration information must notify members of the public who they determine appropriate to ensure public safety.

III. Sex Offender Registration & Notification Act of 1999 (SORNA of 1999)

The SORNA of 1999 greatly expands the definition of "sex offender" and creates the new category "sexually violent predator." These recent changes increase the number of registrants significantly. The SORNA of 1999 also requires the State to provide registration information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be used in a national database. The adoption of this act also puts Maine in compliance with the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. (See 42 U.S.C. section 14071.)

A. Application

Maine's SORNA of 1999 applies to all sex offenders and sexually violent offenders who are sentenced on or after September 18, 1999.

1. Sex offender. A "sex offender" means an adult convicted, or a juvenile convicted as an adult, of a "sex offense." "Sex offense" means one of the following offenses or an attempt or solicitation of one of the following offenses if the victim was less than 18 years of age at the time of the criminal conduct:

- (A) Sexual exploitation of a minor (Title 17 §2922);
- (B) Certain types of gross sexual assault (Title 17-A §253, sub-§2, ¶ E, F, G, H, I or J);
- (C) Sexual abuse of a minor (Title 17-A §254);
- (D) Certain types of unlawful sexual contact (Title 17-A §255, sub-§1, ¶ A, E, F, G, I or J);
- (E) Visual sexual aggression against a child (Title 17-A §256);
- (F) Sexual misconduct with a child under 14 years of age; (Title 17-A §258);
- (G) Kidnapping, unless the actor is a parent of the victim (Title 17-A, §301);
- (H) Criminal restraint (Title 17-A §302);

(I) Certain types of violation of privacy (Title 17-A §511, sub-§1, ¶D);

(J) Incest (Title 17-A §556);

(K) Aggravated promotion of prostitution (Title 17-A §852, sub-§1, ¶B);

(L) Patronizing prostitution (Title 17-A §855);
or

(M) An offense in another jurisdiction that includes the same elements of the offenses listed above.

2. Sexually violent predator. A “sexually violent predator” means an adult convicted, or a juvenile convicted as an adult, of a “sexually violent offense” or a “sex offense” when the person has a prior conviction for which registration is required. “Sexually violent offense” means one of the following offenses or an attempt to commit one of the following offenses:

(A) Certain types of gross sexual assault (Title 17-A §253, sub-§1 and sub-§2, ¶¶ A, B, C or D);

(B) Certain types of unlawful sexual contact (Title 17-A §255, sub-§1, ¶¶ B, C, D or H); or

(C) An offense in another jurisdiction that includes the same elements of the offenses listed above.

B. Offender’s registration duties

Under the SORNA of 1999, a sex offender is required to register that offender’s address with the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification for 10 years after release. A sexually violent predator must register for the duration of the offender’s life. If the sex offender or sexually violent predator moves out of the State or travels to another state to attend school or work for a period of time, the sex offender or sexually violent predator must register the new address with the bureau and must register with a designated law enforcement agency in the new state if the state has a registration requirement.

The State Bureau of Identification may charge a \$25 annual fee to an offender required to register under this act.

C. Registration violations

The penalties for violating registration requirements under the SORNA of 1999 are the same as those under the SORNA of 1996.

D. State registry and federal database

Upon receipt of sex offender registration information, the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification must enter the information in its database. The bureau also must forward the information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be entered in the national sex offender database from which law enforcement agencies from other states may access information.

E. Registration verification

The State Bureau of Identification must verify the domicile of a sex offender on each anniversary of the sex offender’s initial registration date and must verify the domicile of a sexually violent predator every 90 days after that offender’s initial registration date.

F. Notification

The notification process under the SORNA of 1999 is the same as that under the SORNA of 1996.

IV. Other Sex Offender Initiatives

A. Sentencing for dangerous sexual offenders

In addition to Maine’s sex offender registration and notification acts, the 119th Legislature enacted “An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the 118th Legislative Joint Select Committee to Implement a Program for the Control, Care and Treatment of Sexually Violent Predators.” (See Public Law 1999, chapter 788.) This new law makes the following significant changes in sentencing sex offenders:

1. Removes the current ceiling for terms of imprisonment. The law allows a court to impose a straight term of imprisonment for any term of years for the “dangerous sexual of-

fender.” For other serious crimes, current law allows a court to set a definite period of

**Table 1: SUMMARY OF SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION
& NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

	SORA of 1992	SORNA of 1996	SORNA of 1999
Definition of Offender	Sex offender = person convicted of gross sexual assault if the victim was less than 16 years of age at the time of the crime	Sex offender = person convicted of gross sexual assault if the victim was less than 16 years of age at the time of the crime or person found not criminally responsible for committing gross sexual assault by reason of mental disease or defect if the victim was less than 16 years of age at the time of the crime	Sex offender = adult convicted, or a juvenile convicted as an adult, of a "sex offense," which includes the following offenses if the victim was less than 18 years of age at the time of the crime: sexual exploitation of a minor, certain types of gross sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, certain types of unlawful sexual contact, visual sexual aggression against a child, sexual misconduct with a child under 14 years of age, kidnapping, criminal restraint, certain types of violation of privacy, incest, aggravated promotion of prostitution, patronizing prostitution or an offense in another jurisdiction that includes the same elements of the offenses listed above. Sexually violent predator = an adult convicted, or a juvenile convicted as an adult, of a "sexually violent offense" or a "sex offense" when the person has a prior conviction for which registration is required. A "sexually violent offense" includes the following offenses: certain types of gross sexual assault, certain types of unlawful sexual contact or an offense in another jurisdiction that includes the same elements of the offenses listed above
Application	Sex offenders sentenced on or after June 30, 1992 and before September 1, 1996	Sex offenders sentenced on or after September 1, 1996 and before September 18, 1999	Sex offenders and sexually violent offenders sentenced on or after September 18, 1999
Registration Duties	Register address with SBI for 15 years after release	Register address with SBI for 15 years after release	"Sex offender" must register address with the SBI for 10 years after release. "Sexually violent predator" must register address with the SBI for life Sex offender or sexually violent predator who moves out of State or travels to another state for a period of time must register the new address with SBI and must register with a designated law enforcement agency in the new state if the state has a registration requirement
Registration Violations	Class E crime	Class D crime; Class C crime if 2 or more prior convictions for registration violations	Class D crime; Class C crime if 2 or more prior convictions for registration violations
Verification of Address with DPS, SBI	None required	None required	SBI verifies sex offender's domicile annually on the anniversary of initial registration and verifies sexually violent predator's domicile every 90 days after initial registration
Notification	None required	SBI receives registration information and forwards to all law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction in the areas where the offender may work or reside; law enforcement agencies notify members of public who they determine appropriate to ensure public safety	SBI receives registration information and forwards to all law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction in the areas where the offender may work or reside; law enforcement agencies notify members of public who they determine appropriate to ensure public safety

"SORA of 1992" means the Sex Offender Registration Act.

"SORNA of 1996" means the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act.

"SORNA of 1999" means the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999.

"SBI" means the State Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Public Safety

imprisonment not to exceed 40 years for very serious crimes that may or may not be accompanied by serious criminal histories;

2. Removes the current probation period caps.

The law allows a court to impose a period of probation for any term of years for the “dangerous sexual offender.” For other serious crimes, current law allows a court to place a person convicted of a Class A crime on probation for a period not to exceed 6 years;

3. Creates a new post release mechanism called “supervised release.”

The law allows a court to impose a term of supervised release of any term of years with a straight term of imprisonment for the “dangerous sexual offender”; and

4. Allows for a period of supervised release after imprisonment for a conviction of gross sexual assault.

The law allows a court to impose a defined period of supervised release depending upon the class of crime of the gross sexual assault for which the offender was convicted. The period of supervised release may be up to 6 years for Class B and C gross sexual assaults and up to 10 years for Class A gross sexual assaults.

B. Sex offender specialists

In an effort to better supervise high-risk sex offenders, the Legislature authorized the Department of Corrections to accept federal money to employ 6 probation officers who are “sex offender specialists.” These officers have smaller caseloads than other probation officers, so that they can provide closer supervision and have greater contact with their probationers who are all high-risk sex offenders. Increased contacts for high-risk sex offenders include probation officers having more contacts with the offender, as well as communicating regularly with an offender’s employer, family members, neighbors and others in the community with whom the offender is in contact.



Policy and Government

WashLaw Web: This site offers a plethora of information relating to legal research, including links to circuit courts, federal and state statutes, law firms, law schools, law list-servs and federal agencies. <http://www.washlaw.edu>

FirstGov: This site is the new comprehensive U.S. Federal Government Web page that consolidates 20,000 government Web pages into one page. This site provides a one-stop access point to all on-line federal government resources. Now on one page, a user can track their social security benefits, conduct research at the Library of Congress, apply for a federal student loan, find the nearest veteran’s hospital and reserve a campsite at a national park.

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Center for Democracy and Technology: The Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) is a non-profit public policy organization dedicated to promoting the democratic potential of today's open, decentralized global Internet. The website includes federal legislation tracking, information on issues related to the Internet and publications related to the Internet.

<http://www.cdt.org>



Maine State Legislature: The State of Maine statutes, including the new laws passed in 2000, are now available through the Legislature’s homepage. The website also includes access to current bill text, amendments and final disposition information. <http://www.state.me.us/legis>

Law and Legislative Reference Library: Provides access to URSUS catalog, collections information, reference information, legislative history instructions and interlibrary loan information and lists of Justices for the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and Maine Attorney Generals. The Library’s website also includes an in-house index to NCSL Legisbrief, a two-page issue brief published by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The website also offers the submittal of research requests via e-mail.

<http://www.state.me.us/legis/lawlib>

Technology



ByteSearch.com: This search engine allows the user to search the web, get weather updates and receive daily news by email. <http://www.bytesearch.com>

Reference

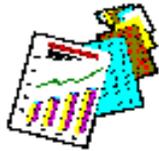


Consumers Union: The website of the nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports magazine. This site provides informative and educational materials on a variety of consumer issues, including health care, food safety, utilities and telecommunications, financial services and product safety.

www.consumersunion.org

Tech Law Journal: This website includes news, records, and analysis of legislation, litigation, and regulation affecting the computer and Internet industry

General Interest



Farnsworth Art Museum: The Farnsworth Art Museum, located in Rockland, Maine, has a specialized collection focusing on Maine's role in American art. The website includes links to special events at the museum, exhibits, an online store, the Wyeth center and information on classes and workshops.

<http://www.farnsworthmuseum.org>

Infoplease.com: This comprehensive website offers access to many different types of almanacs, including world, United States, history and government, biographies, business and health. The website also includes access to encyclopedias, dictionaries and atlases.

www.infoplease.com



Interim Studies Update

The following is an update of legislative and selected non-legislative studies approved by the Legislature for this interim. The majority of these studies are the result of legislation considered during the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. Several of the studies listed are continuations of studies authorized during the 119th Legislature's First Regular Session. For more information on studies staffed by the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and studies staffed by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, including meeting dates, membership, agendas and minutes, visit the following websites:
<http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla/119study.htm>
<http://www.state.me.us/legis/ofpr/study.htm>

Study Name	Status
Blue Ribbon Commission to Study a Comprehensive Internet Policy (P.L. 1999, chapter 762)	Reconvened 8/23/00, report due 11/15/00
Citizens Advisory Committee to Secure the Future of Maine's Fish and Wildlife (Resolve 1999, chapter 86)	Reconvened, report due 12/15/00
Commission on the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse (J.O. H.P. 1930)	Convened 9/5/00, report due 11/1/00
Commission to Study Domestic Violence (Resolve 1999, chapter 126)	Convened 9/27/00, report due 12/5/01
Commission to Study Economically and Socially Just Policies for Foreign Investments and Foreign Purchasing by the State (Resolve 1999, chapter 135)	Convened 10/19/00, report due 11/15/00
Commission to Study Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, All-terrain Vehicles and Watercraft (Resolve 1999, chapter 131)	Convened 10/3/00, report date 12/6/00
Commission to Study the Establishment of an Environmental Leadership Program (Resolve 1999, chapter 134)	Appointments completed, report due 12/1/01
Commission to Study Kindergarten-to-grade 12 Educator Recruitment and Retention (Resolve 1999, chapter 130)	Report due 1/15/01
Commission to Study the Most Effective Method of Providing Retail Rate Reimbursement for parts and Labor (P.L. 1999, chapter 766)	Convened 8/10/00, report due 12/15/00

Study Name	Status
Commission to Study the Needs and Opportunities Associated with the Production of Salmonid Sport Fish in Maine (Resolve 1999, chapter 82)	Reporting date extended to 12/31/00
Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine (Resolve 1999, chapter 136)	Report due 11/15/00
Committee on Gasoline and Fuel Prices (J.O. H.P. 1774)	Convened 9/5/00, reporting date extended to 21/11/00
Committee to Develop a Compensation Program for Victims of Abuse at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and to Continue Oversight of Multi-agency Cooperation (Resolve 1999, chapter 127)	Convened 8/17/00, report due 11/1/00
Committee to Study Access to Private and Public Lands in Maine (J.O. H.P. 1951)	Convened 8/14/00, reporting date extended to 11/1/00
Committee to Study Further Decriminalization of the Criminal Laws of Maine (J.O. H.P. 1914)	Reconvened 9/12/00, report due 11/1/00
Task Force to Reduce the Burden on Home Heating Costs on Low-Income Households (Resolve 1999, chapter 132)	Convened 8/30/00, report due 11/1/00
Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules	Convened 9/7/00
Joint Select Committee on the Psychiatric Treatment Initiative (J.O. H.P. 1955)	Convened 9/11/00
Joint Select Committee on School-based Health Care Services (J.O. H.P. 1864)	Convened 8/15/00, report due 12/1/00
Joint Select Committee to Study the Creation of a Public/Private Purchasing Alliance to Ensure Access to Health Care for all Maine Citizens (J.O. H.P. 1857)	Convened 9/19/00, report due 12/1/00
Joint Study Committee to Study Bomb Threats in Maine Schools (J.O. H.P. 1938)	Convened 8/17/00, report due 11/01/00

Study Name	Status
Resolve to Recognize Veterans of the Vietnam War in the State House Hall of Flags (Resolve 1999, chapter 113)	Convened 9/25/00, interim report due 10/4/00, final report due 11/1/00
Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry (Resolve 1999, chapter 124)	First meeting scheduled for 10/25/00, final report due 12/05/01
Task Force on Educational Programming at Juvenile Correctional Facilities (P.L. 1999, chapter 770)	Convened 9/15/00, report due 11/1/00
Task Force on the Maine Learning Technology Endowment (P.L. 1999, chapter 731, Part FFF)	Convened 9/7/00, report due 12/15/00
Task Force to Study Growth Management (J.O. S.P. 1090)	Convened 9/13/00, reporting date extended to 12/15/00
Task Force to Study the Implementation of the Marijuana for Medical Purposes Law (Resolve 1999, chapter 137)	Work completed, report issued
Task Force to Study Market Power Issues Related to the Solid Waste Hauling and Disposal Industry (P.L. 1999, chapter 773)	Convened 8/28/00, interim report due 12/6/00, final report due 12/5/01



OPLA PUBLICATIONS

- Study Reports** - A listing of study reports of legislative committees and commissions categorized by year from 1973 on is available from OPLA. For printed copies of any of these reports, please contact the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at 13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333 (287-1670) or stop by Room 107 of the State House. The first copy of a report is free; additional copies are available at a nominal cost. In addition, many of the recent legislative studies staffed by OPLA are available on the OPLA website at the following address: <http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla/reports2.htm>

The following publications are currently available:

- **Enacted Law Summaries of the 119th Legislature, Second Regular Session:** Summarizes all bills, resolves and selected joint orders passed by the 119th Legislature, Second Regular Session. Enacted law summaries can also be found on the OPLA website at the following address: www.state.me.us/legis/opla/enacted.pdf
- **Bill Summaries of the 119th Legislature, Second Regular Session:** Summarizes all legislation considered by the OPLA staffed Joint Standing Committees of the Legislature and describes bills, committee amendments, other relevant amendments and the final action taken on each bill. There are also copies of bill summaries for each individual joint standing committee available. Bill summaries can also be found on the OPLA website at the following address: www.state.me.us/legis/opla/billsumm.htm

For bill summaries of committees staffed by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, please call the office at 287-1635 or check the OFPR website at the following address: www.state.me.us/legis/ofpr/billsumm.htm

A Word About OPLA

The Office of Policy and Legal Analysis (OPLA) is one of several nonpartisan offices of the Maine State Legislature. It operates under the auspices of the Legislative Council. The office provides professional staff assistance to the joint standing and select committees and study commissions, including providing policy and legal research and analysis, coordinating the committee process, drafting bills and amendments, analyzing budget bills in cooperation with the Office of Fiscal and Program Review and preparing legislative proposals, reports and recommendations.

OPLA~Notes

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Barr, Legislative Analyst

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Contact the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis by writing to 13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333; calling 287-1670; or stopping by Room 107 of the State House. The newsletter is available on the Internet at: www.state.me.us/legis/opla/newslet.htm

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