

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**JULY 1997**

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**August 1997**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

*David E. Boulter, Director*  
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

LD 811, a concept draft, proposed to integrate sources of financial support for children with special needs in the Department of Education; the Department of Human Services; the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; and the Department of Corrections into a single system with common funding in order to assist children with special needs.

**LD 815**                      **An Act to Integrate Teacher Retirement and Other Educational Support Funds into the System for Distributing General Purpose Aid to Education**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS	ONTP	

LD 815, a concept draft, proposed to take the money that is currently allocated annually to fund retirement for teachers and school district employees and funds for construction and transportation and integrate them all into the general purpose aid formula. The bill also sought to require school units to fund retirement for their own teachers and employees after July 1, 1998.

**LD 833**                      **An Act to Amend the Charter of Foxcroft Academy**                      **P & S 25 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CROSS HALL	OTP-AM	H-223

LD 833 proposed to increase the number of trustees for Foxcroft Academy.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-223)** proposed to add an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill to enable the Trustees of Foxcroft Academy to expand the number of board members as soon as possible after approval of the bill.

*Enacted law summary*

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 25 expands the number of trustees for Foxcroft Academy to as many as twenty-one members. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on May 15, 1997.

**LD 846**                      **An Act to Have One Standard of Measurement for School State Assessment Examinations**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SKOGLUND PENDLETON P	ONTP      MAJ OTP      MIN	

LD 846 proposed to prohibit the practice of using socio-economic status comparison bands in the state educational assessment program. State and school profile reports would have been required to use categories that are uniform for each school in comparing student performance.

**LD 852**                      **An Act to Prohibit the State from Dictating Educational Curricula**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> VEDRAL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 852 proposed to place the control over educational curricula with local school administrative units.

**LD 854**                      **An Act Regarding the Obligation of the State to Fund Adult Education**                      **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BERRY D		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 854 proposed to direct the Legislature to restore full funding of the State's obligation under the adult education law. It further proposed to establish a four-year period to attain full funding and would have required full funding each year after that time (see also LD 1538).

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-306)** proposed to replace the bill and add a fiscal note. The amendment would have ensured that funding for the state subsidy for public school adult education in fiscal year 1999-2000 and every year thereafter would increase in proportion to any increase in state funding for the general purpose aid subsidy for public schools for kindergarten to grade 12. This Act would have taken effect July 1, 1999. The amendment was not adopted.

**LD 856**                      **Resolve, to Review Special Education Laws to Determine if They Exceed Federal Requirements**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCELROY MILLS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 856 proposed to direct the Commissioner of Education to review the laws and rules governing special education to determine whether they exceed federal requirements. The commissioner would have been directed to take the necessary steps to amend rules to conform them to federal requirements. The commissioner would have also been directed to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than May 1, 1997.