

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).

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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & 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

Resolve, to Require the Department of Education to Review the Methods Used to Determine the Tuition Rates of a Receiving School for a Student from Another School District

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCELROY	OTP-AM	H-305 S-397 MICHAUD

LD 857 proposed that the Commissioner of Education be required to determine the appropriate tuition rate that should be paid to a receiving school for a student who is educated in a school other than one located in the municipality in which the student lives and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than November 15, 1997.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-305) proposed to replace the resolve and would have authorized the Commissioner of Education to establish a task force to review the current methods used by the State and local school administrative units to determine tuition reimbursement rates for students who are educated in a school administrative unit other than their own or in a private school. In reviewing these methods, the task force would examine school finance and governance issues in public schools, kindergarten to grade 12. The task force would report its findings and any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on or before January 15, 1998. This amendment would also change the title of the resolve to more accurately reflect the legislation in the resolve.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-448) proposed to require the legislative member of the task force to be appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The amendment would give that legislative member legislative per diem and expenses and would also add an appropriation section to the committee amendment. This amendment would also change the reporting date to January 1, 1998. The amendment was not adopted.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-397) proposed that the Department of Education rather than the task force be required to conduct the study.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 75 authorizes the Department of Education to review the current methods used by the State and local school administrative units to determine tuition reimbursement rates for students who are educated in a school administrative unit other than their own or in a private school. In reviewing these methods, the department will examine school finance and governance issues in public schools, kindergarten to grade 12. The department will report its findings and any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on or before January 1, 1998. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on June 12, 1997.