

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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Sen. Mary E. Small

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Phillip D. McCarthy, Ed.D., Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670



Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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:

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

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 1045 proposes to create the Task Force on Research and Development Investment to determine the appropriate level of capital and human resource investment necessary to enhance Maine's ability to develop projects that can lead to the creation of new businesses and jobs. This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

LD 1048

Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Review the Applied Technology Centers and Applied Technology Regions

RESOLVE 74

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCELROY	OTP-AM	H-320 S-398 MICHAUD

LD 1048 proposed to establish the Task Force to Review the Regional Applied Technology Centers

Committee Amendment "A" (H-320) proposed to replace the resolve by expanding the scope of the task force review to include both applied technology centers and applied technology regions. The task force would review governance relationships and organizational structures, finance and cost-sharing arrangements and program direction and development issues related to applied technology centers and applied technology regions. The task force would report its findings and any recommended implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 1, 1998. Finally, this amendment changes the title of the resolve and adds a fiscal note.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-449) proposed to require the legislative member of the Task Force to Review the Regional Applied Technology Centers to be appointed jointly by the presiding officers and gives the legislative member legislative per diem and expenses. The amendment as not adopted.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-226) proposed to add an additional legislative member to the Task Force to Review the Applied Technology Centers and Applied Technology Regions; and to provide that the two legislative members, one of whom must be a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and one of whom must be a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs, would be appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The amendment would also give the legislative members per diem and expenses. The amendment would also require the task force to review the issue of competition with the private sector, including strategies to minimize that competition. The amendment as not adopted.

Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-398) also proposed that the task force review competition with the private sector, including strategies to minimize that competition. The amendment further proposed to specify that only legislative members of the task force are entitled to per diem and reimbursement for expenses.

Enacted law summary

Resolve chapter 74 establishes the task force to review the applied technology centers and applied technology regions. The task force will review governance relationships and organizational structures, finance and cost-sharing arrangements, competition with the private sector, and program direction and development issues related to applied technology centers and applied technology regions. The task force will report its findings and any

recommended implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 1, 1998.

LD 1080 An Act to Establish Public Charter Schools ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BARTH AMERO		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1080 proposed to authorize the establishment of charter schools within the State and would have set forth eligibility, application and funding requirements for charter schools.

LD 1085 An Act to Give Authority to Set Acreage Necessary for Building or Reconstruction of Schools Solely to the Local Authorities ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SKOGLUND		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1085 proposed to remove the requirement that the state board approve the amount of acreage to be used for a school construction project.

LD 1099 An Act to Modify School Construction Laws for Renovation Projects ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KERR MICHAUD		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1099 proposed to allow the Board of Education to approve funding for small scale construction projects if 50% of the funding comes from the local school administrative unit and the project cost does not exceed \$150,000. The state board would have been authorized to approve up to \$500,000 for eligible projects annually.

LD 1109 An Act to Amend the State Share Percentage for Public School Tuition Students ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RUHLIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1109 proposed to change the tuition calculation for a student who is not a state ward, a state agency client or a homeless child attending school in a school administrative unit other than the one where the student has a permanent residence. Currently, the tuition amount for such a student is the greater of the state share percentage of the unit in