

# 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 R. Cathcart***

***Sen. Mary E. Small***

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***Staff:***

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**Maine State Legislature**

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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:

- 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 1260****An Act Allowing Schools to Remain on the School Construction Account Priority List****CARRIED OVER**Sponsor(s)  
MURPHYCommittee ReportAmendments Adopted

LD 1260 proposes to establish that once a school administrative unit has an application for approval of a construction project on file with the State Board of Education, it may still seek or obtain local funding for a project. The bill would further require the state board to consider the initial application without regard to local funding or any construction that may have occurred while the project was on the priority list and requires the board to fund the project when the project rating allows concept and funding approval, based on the initial application. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

**LD 1271****An Act Pertaining to Truancy****ONTP**Sponsor(s)  
FERGUSONCommittee Report  
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 1271 proposed that a student determined habitually truant may not hold the Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education or any school official liable if that student is illiterate. This bill further proposed to require the Secretary of State, upon notification by the commissioner of a determination of habitual truancy, to suspend the student's license or right to operate a motor vehicle for six months.

**LD 1273****An Act to Establish the Maine Center for Arts Education****INDEF PP**Sponsor(s)  
AMERO  
SMALLCommittee Report  
OTP-AM MAJ  
ONTP MINAmendments Adopted

LD 1273 proposed to establish the Maine Center for Arts Education. The center would be composed of a charter school in the Portland area and a student and a professional development institute, which would be established to utilize the arts in education to provide teacher training and other programs for all teachers on a statewide basis. The charter school would establish a series of regional arts education programs for artistically motivated students who have exhausted the available programs in their sending schools. The charter school is designed to be replicated in other areas of the State. This bill represented the recommendations of the Task Force on the Maine School of Visual and Performing Arts, established in Public Law 1993, chapter 706, Part B.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-310)** proposed to alter the status of the Maine Center for Arts Education from a charter school to a public school. To accomplish this, the amendment would direct the board of trustees to consult with the Department of Education in developing the center's budget, permits the hiring of teachers who are not certified, would revoke the provision allowing the center to grant diplomas and would require that the trustees report annually to the Governor.