

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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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).

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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMALL	OTP-AM	S-188

LD 1337 proposed to make some changes to the education laws of the State of Maine. It would revise the designation of commissioner appointments within the Department of Education, and also revise the provisions of calculating elementary and secondary tuition rates to be consistent with each other. The bill further proposed to extend the reporting deadline for the State Board of Education on the issue of essential programs and essential services. It would also increase the percentage of voters in a municipality required to approve a withdrawal petition from a school administrative district. It would move the authority of approval of licensing of barbering and cosmetology schools from the Department of Education to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. It would clarify how to calculate the cost to a town in a school administrative district if it votes to keep an elementary school open against the wishes of the school administrative district school board. It would repeal language providing for the teacher candidate employment registry within the Department of Education. It would provide that the professional teacher certificate is the entry level, renewable certificate for an individual seeking certification only as an adult education teacher or an individual seeking from birth to under age six endorsements. It would require that, upon the request of a local school administrative unit, a private school approved for the receipt of public funds and private schools approved for attendance purposes only must release copies of student records for students transferring from the private school to the local school administrative unit.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-188) proposed to strike section 3 from the bill and leaves the statutory provision allowing voters of a member municipality to petition for withdrawal from a school administrative district with a simple majority vote in place. This amendment further proposed to strike sections 20 and 21 from the bill since these provisions refer to actions already approved in Public Law 1997, chapter 24. Finally, this amendment would add an allocation section and a fiscal note.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 266 make several changes to the education laws of the State of Maine. The law revises the designation of commissioner appointments within the Department of Education, and also revises the provisions of calculating elementary and secondary tuition rates to be consistent with each other. The law also moves the authority of approval of licensing of barbering and cosmetology schools from the Department of Education to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. The law clarifies how to calculate the cost to a town in a school administrative district if it votes to keep an elementary school open against the wishes of the school administrative district school board. The law repeals language providing for the teacher candidate employment registry within the Department of Education. It also provides that the professional teacher certificate is the entry level, renewable certificate for an individual seeking certification only as an adult education teacher or an individual seeking from birth to under age six endorsements. The law further requires that, upon the request of a local school administrative unit, a private school approved for the receipt of public funds and private schools approved for attendance purposes only must release copies of student records for students transferring from the private school to the local school administrative unit.