

# 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**

***MEMBERS:***

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***Sen. Mary R. Cathcart***

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

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***Rep. Michael F. Brennan***

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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*

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2. Establish a procedure for determining the base allocation per student at each institution based on the number of students enrolled in each academic degree program level. Students enrolled in an undergraduate degree program or a master's, doctoral or law degree program receive a different level of base funding;
3. Establish a mechanism for funding the system-wide services office of the University of Maine System;
4. Establish an enrollment-based funding formula for the equitable distribution of public subsidies in support of campus facilities; and
5. Provide a mechanism to implement the enrollment-based funding formula over a transition period that begins in fiscal year 1998-99.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-590)** proposed to replace the original bill and change it to a resolve. The amendment would direct the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System and the Chancellor to review the current method of distributing state resources and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on a funding formula to be implemented in fiscal year 1999-2000. This amendment would also provide a General Fund appropriation of \$1,000,000 to provide additional support for students at the University of Maine System. Finally, this amendment adds a fiscal note.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-362)** proposed to reduce the amount appropriated to the University of Maine System from \$1,000,000 to \$250,000.

*Enacted law summary*

Resolve 1997, chapter 70 directs the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System and the Chancellor to review the current method of distributing state resources and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 1998 on a funding formula to be implemented in fiscal year 1999-2000. This amendment also provides a General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 to provide additional support for students at the University of Maine System.

**LD 1415**

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Certain Procedures Regarding Special Education**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PENDLETON P	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1415 proposed to direct the Department of Education to review the process for determining whether a child is entitled to receive special education services and the process used by the department to investigate a complaint that a school administrative unit is not providing adequate special education services, including how the department brings the school unit into compliance after a finding of inadequacy. The department is directed to report its findings, and any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by December 1, 1997.