

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

LD 1449

Resolve, to Restructure the University of Maine System and Enhance the Role of the Faculty in Campus Governance

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DESMOND	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1449 proposed to require the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to reorganize the governance and coordination structure of the University of Maine System. The trustees must report their reorganization plan to the Governor, the Legislature and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-351), the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to add a fiscal note to the resolve.

LD 1459

An Act to More Equitably Distribute General Purpose Aid to Schools Based on Property Values

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BELANGER I PARADIS	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1459 proposed to remove the income and cost-of-living factors from the distribution of funding for education under the School Finance Act of 1995, leaving relative property fiscal capacity as the only factor. It further proposed to require that reductions in state funds be made by applying a mill rate to each school administrative unit rather than a percentage.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-560), the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1460

An Act Requiring the Department of Education to Perform Annual Cost-benefit Analysis of Special Education Programs in the State

PUBLIC 308

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMERON	OTP	

LD 1460 proposed to direct the Department of Education to perform an annual cost-benefit analysis of special education programs in the State and to hold a public hearing annually for members of school units to explain what special education programs are offered in each unit and the costs of these programs.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 308 directs the Department of Education to perform an annual cost-benefit analysis of special education programs in the State and to hold a public hearing annually for members of school units to explain what special education programs are offered in each unit and the costs of these programs.

LD 1495 An Act to Repeal the Special Education Laws ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FERGUSON WINGLASS	ONTP	

LD 1495 proposed to repeal the State's laws pertaining to special education. This bill does not affect special education requirements imposed by federal law.

LD 1516 Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Review and Reform the System of Learning Results ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODWIN	ONTP	

LD 1516 proposed to establish the Task Force to Review and Reform the System of Learning Results.

LD 1529 Resolve, to Determine How to Increase the Number of Students Consuming School Meals ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WINN	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1529 proposed to direct the Department of Education to study school meal programs and to report to the Legislature by January 15, 1998. The department would have been directed to examine the rate of low-income students participating in school meal programs, the nutritional content of the food provided, the appeal of the food to participating students and the relation between food appeal and consumption. If problems are identified as a result of the study, the department would be required to develop a plan to deal with them.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-573), the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to replace the resolve and would have directed the Department of Education and the Center for Research and Evaluation at the University of Maine to study methods to improve school meal programs and report to the Legislature by January 15, 1998. The percentage of eligible students for the free and reduced-price school meal programs and the actual rate of consumption and the relationship between food appeal and consumption would also have been analyzed. If problem areas were identified as a result of the study, the