

# 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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**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

3. It would specify that the Chancellor of the University of Maine System shall prepare the budget of the chancellor's office and coordinate and present to the Governor and the Legislature the budgets, appropriation requests and bond issues presented by the university presidents and the universities.
4. It would eliminate a specified duty of the chancellor to provide a centralized management oversight of services.
5. It would restore the separate seven-member boards of trustees of the seven universities that were proposed in the original bill and direct the individual boards to, prepare budgets and present them to the Board of Regents of the University of Maine System for coordination and presentation to the Governor and Legislature by the chancellor and the university president, and hire and evaluate the president of the particular university.

This amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill. The amendment was not adopted.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 37 amends the governance and coordination provisions in the Charter of the University of Maine System. The law accomplishes the following:

1. It directs the Governor to make every effort to appoint an alumnus of each of the seven university campuses to the Board of Trustees;
2. It establishes two additional duties of the chancellor regarding the duplication of academic offerings with the State's private and public postsecondary institutions and the transfer of academic credits between all campuses of the University of Maine System;
3. It establishes Boards of Visitors for each of the seven universities that shall advocate for the universities, advise the president, raise funds and review recommendations made to the Board of Trustees. Each campus president is authorized to nominate up to 20 board members subject to approval of the Board of Trustees. Board members may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses within the existing resources of the University of Maine System; and
4. It directs the Board of Trustees to study methods in other states and make recommendations to create a more market-driven system.

**LD 1560**

**Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Study Charter Schools and School Choice**

**RESOLVE 62**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JENKINS	OTP-AM	S-317

LD 1560 proposed to establish the Committee to Study the Development of the Charter School Initiative.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-317)** proposed to replace the original resolve and would direct the State Board of Education to establish a committee to study charter schools and school choice initiatives in other states and jurisdictions. In conducting its study, the board's committee would meet at least four times and would report its findings and any recommended legislation to the Legislature by January 1, 1998.

This amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the resolve.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1997, chapter 62 directs the State Board of Education to establish a committee to study charter schools and school choice initiatives in other states and jurisdictions. In conducting its study, the board's committee shall meet at least four times and shall report its findings and any recommended legislation to the Legislature by January 1, 1998.

**LD 1565                      Resolve, to Assist the Sanford Regional Vocational Center                      ONTP**

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

LD 1565 proposed to allow the school units affiliated with the applied technology center located in Sanford to contribute money for improvements to the center without affecting their state subsidies for education. The resolve would also allow the center to receive the money from the school units without affecting its state subsidy for education.

**LD 1581                      An Act to Improve the Child Development Services System and                      PUBLIC 534  
Encourage Collaboration in Early Childhood Programs with School  
Administrative Units**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KERR	OTP-AM	H-703 S-374 MICHAUD

LD 1581 proposed to make the following changes to the laws governing the Child Development Services System.

1. It would clarify the definition of "disability" for children age three to under age six.
2. It would ensure a demonstration of nonsupplanting with federal funds in the annual report by the Interdepartmental Coordinating Council for Early Intervention, now to be provided to the Commissioner of Education.
3. It would standardize procedures and rates of payment for services delivered by Child Development Services System sites across the State.
4. It would permit flexibility in the establishment of advisory bodies required under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
5. It would establish parameters for the program day and the program year for special instruction services for children served by the Child Development Services System.