

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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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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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 1628**An Act to Expand the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System**

ONTP

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

LD 1628 proposed to add three additional members to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System representing full-time faculty, professional, administrative, clerical and office employees and adjunct and part-time faculty.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-289), the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to establish a separate trustee to represent the clerical and office employees bargaining unit, as well as a separate trustee to represent the service and maintenance employees bargaining unit and would have eliminated the bargaining unit representing the adjunct and part-time faculty from being added to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees.

LD 1632**An Act to Improve Taxpayer Equity in School Funding**

ONTP

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

LD 1632 proposed to further require the State to use a school unit's weighted relative fiscal capacity to calculate a unit's local share of program costs. The Committee to Study Organizational and Tax Issues in Public Schools, as established by the 116th Legislature, issued its final report in February of 1995. That report recognized the use of property values as the exclusive measure of a municipality's ability to pay its local share of education costs. The report recommended the use of income and costs of living along with property values in the formula used to distribute general purpose aid for education.

In response to the committee's report, the 117th Legislature passed the School Finance Act of 1995. That Act introduced income, as modified by a regional cost-of-living factor as a 15% factor, in the calculation of municipal ability to pay. Property value unadjusted for cost of living was left as an 85% factor. This bill increases the weight of the income factor to 25%. It also uses the cost-of-living factor to adjust a municipality's property values. This bill proposed to further require the State to use a school unit's weighted relative fiscal capacity to calculate a unit's local share of program costs. Those costs are substantial in most school units but current law only uses a unit's property value to calculate the unit's local share.

LD 1637**An Act to Authorize Interest-only Interim Financing in the School Construction Funding Process**

PUBLIC 397

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE	OTP-AM	S-328