

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MAY 1998

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Sen. Mary E. Small

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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:

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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATSON AMERO	OTP-AM	H-850

LD 2140 proposed to create the Maine Arts Commission's Arts in Education Program. The bill also proposed to appropriate \$150,000 to the Maine Arts Commission to allow for the implementation of the Arts in Education Program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-850) proposed to correct the program name in the appropriation section of the bill within the account of the Maine Arts Commission. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 762 creates the Maine Arts Commission's Arts in Education Program. The law also appropriates \$150,000 to the Maine Arts Commission to allow for the implementation of the Arts in Education Program.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GREEN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-1001 H-1075 RICHARD H-1132 RICHARD

LD 2142 proposed to require school boards to develop and adopt a district-wide school disciplinary policy that addresses rules of conduct for students, consequences for violations of the rules of conduct and the grounds and procedures for the removal of a student from a class or activity period. The bill also proposed to provide for an ombudsman service to provide advocacy for the enforcement of the disciplinary policy and to mediate disputes regarding the disciplinary policy. The bill would further provide for an annual review of the disciplinary policy by the school board and by other involved parties.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1001), the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to change the title of the bill, change the bill from an act to a resolve and establish the Commission to Study Providing Educators with More Authority to Remove Violent Students from Educational Settings. The proposed commission would review district-wide school disciplinary policies, procedures and practices that address disruptive student conduct and violent behavior in the public schools in the State. In addition, the commission would study the establishment and the effectiveness of district-wide school disciplinary policies and practices throughout the State and develop a plan to address the growing concern of violence in the public schools.