

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**JULY 1999**

***MEMBERS:***

***Sen. Georgette B. Berube, Chair***

***Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.***

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

***Rep. Michael F. Brennan, Chair***

***Rep. Shirley K. Richard***

***Rep. Mabel J. Desmond***

***Rep. James G. Skoglund***

***Rep. Elizabeth Watson***

***Rep. Christina L. Baker***

***Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman.***

***Rep. Irvin G. Belanger***

***Rep. Mary Black Andrews***

***Rep. Carol Weston***

***Staff:***

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**ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees**  
**August 1999**

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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](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  
*ENACTMENT FAILED*..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died  
*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 September 18, 1999.

**SP 0598**

**JOINT ORDER - Relative to Establishing the Task Force to Study the Implementation of Alternative Programs and Interventions for Violent and Chronically Disruptive**

**PASSED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CATHCART BERRY R PARADIS RAND	OTP-AM	

SP 0598 proposed to implement one of the recommendations of the Commission to Study Providing Educators with More Authority to Remove Violent Students from Educational Settings. This joint study order proposed to establish a Task Force to Study the Implementation of Alternative Programs and Interventions for Violent and Chronically Disruptive Students as part of a successful response to ensuring safe schools and the need to provide resources to students and their families.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-276)** proposed to accomplish the following.

1. It would strike the membership subsection of the joint study order and replace it with a nine-member task force composed of six Legislators and three public members involved in school-based or community-based violence prevention and intervention programs;
2. It would expand the duties charged to the task force, including requesting assistance from certain state agencies and inviting the participation of experts and interested parties; and
3. It would permit public members of the task force to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and provide a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for their attendance at authorized task force meetings.

**House Amendment "A" (H-766)** proposed to make technical change in the joint study order to comply with drafting guidelines for studies by clarifying that public members are not entitled to an amount equal to the legislative per diem.

*Passed joint order summary*

Senate Paper 598 was read and passed in both chambers, and it establishes the Task Force to Study the Implementation of Alternative Programs and Interventions for Violent and Chronically Disruptive Students. This joint study order implements one of the recommendations proposed by the Commission to Study Providing Educators with More Authority to Remove Violent Students from Educational Settings. The task force established by the joint study order will be part of a successful response to ensuring safe schools and the need to provide resources to students and their families.

**HP 1183**

**JOINT ORDER - Relative to a Task Force to Redesign the Governance System of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf**

**DIED IN CONCURRENCE**

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

HP 1183 proposed to implement one of the recommendations of the Committee to Review the Governance Structure of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf. This joint study order proposed to establish a Task Force to Redesign the Governance System of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf as part of a successful response to ensure that the

governance system of the Baxter School is designed to meet the school board's need to effectively and efficiently govern the school and to give the school greater autonomy in managing its affairs.

Following the withdrawal of HP 1183, the House and Senate subsequently read and passed a separate joint study order to review the educational program and the governance system of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (see HP 1587).

**HP 1587**                      **JOINT ORDER - Relative to the Task Force to Review the Educational Program and the Governance System of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf**                      **PASSED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN BERUBE		

HP 1587, which as not referred to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, proposed to establish a Task Force to Review the Educational Program and the Governance System of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf to ensure that the school is meeting its statewide obligation and role of helping local schools educate deaf and hard-of-hearing children in an efficient and effective manner. This joint study order proposed to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the educational program at the Baxter School in the context of the range of alternative educational models and placements that are available to deliver appropriate educational programs and services that meet the unique educational needs of children and youth who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. The joint study order also proposed to ensure that the governance system of the Baxter School is designed to meet the school's need for effective and efficient governance.

***Passed joint order summary***

House Paper 1587 was read and passed in both chambers and establishes the Task Force to Review the Educational Program and the Governance System of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf. This joint study order establishes a task force to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the educational program at the Baxter School in the context of the range of alternative educational models and placements that are available to deliver appropriate educational programs and services that meet the unique educational needs of children and youth who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. The task force established by this joint study order shall also ensure that the governance system of the Baxter School is designed to meet the school's need for effective and efficient governance.