

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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Maine State Legislature
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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).

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.

6. Matching funds shall be made available to the three entities on a percentage basis according to the amount appropriated from the General Fund.
7. The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System is required to ensure that the Endowment Incentive Fund distributed to the University of Maine System is allocated to each of the universities in the system in accordance with the formula that the board adopts for the distribution of education and general funds.

The law provides a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation to establish the Endowment Incentive Fund. The law also provides that this appropriation is made on a one-time basis.

LD 113 **An Act to Provide a Tuition Exemption for Certain State Residents** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SHIELDS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 113 proposed to provide a waiver of 50% of the tuition for the last year of study of a Maine resident enrolled in a four-year or two-year degree program at any of the campuses of the University of Maine System or the Maine Technical College System or at the Maine Maritime Academy.

LD 124 **An Act to Provide for Direct Reimbursement for Special Education Costs** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KILKELLY BAKER	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 124 proposed to guarantee that each school administrative unit in the State receive compensation for its current year special education costs on a monthly basis. Compensation for special education costs would have equaled the unit's most recent monthly special education expenditure multiplied by the average statewide state share percentage of program costs in the current year.

It also proposed to increase the State's share of special education costs to 100% effective July 1, 2008 and proposed to add a provision for paying 1999-2000 school year special education costs to school units over a five-year period, beginning in July 2002.

LD 199 **An Act to Require That All Schools Employ a Gifted and Talented Teacher** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GAGNE	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 199 proposed to require schools to employ a teacher to offer instruction to gifted and talented students. This bill also proposed to eliminate the postponement of a school administrative unit's plan to provide for a gifted and talented educational program during the 1999-2000 school year.