

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).

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.

LD 312 proposed to prohibit the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System, and applied technology centers and regions from competing with commercial printing businesses.

LD 364 **An Act to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 364 proposed to provide a total of \$7,500,000 in General Fund appropriations to increase postsecondary educational opportunities for Maine students. The bill proposed to provide \$1,000,000 to the Department of Education to develop a program to assist Maine high schools to hire college guidance counselors. The bill also proposed to provide \$250,000 each to the University of Maine System and to the Maine Technical College System for the development of student retention programs. Finally, the bill proposed to provide a General Fund appropriation of \$6,000,000 to the University of Maine System to create a special financing fund as a last-resort mechanism to supplement existing financial aid.

LD 399 **An Act to Assist Students with Disabilities in the Transition from School to Employment or Postsecondary Education** **VETO SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WATSON KONTOS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-26 S-400 MICHAUD
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LD 399 proposed to provide a General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education for the Interdepartmental Committee on Transition. The funds would be used to assist Maine public schools to reach compliance with federal and state transition laws and regulations as they relate to Maine's system of learning results.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-26) proposed to strike the title and replace it with a new title that more accurately reflects the purpose of the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-400) proposed to provide for General Fund appropriations of \$100,000 in each year of the biennium rather than a \$200,000 appropriation in fiscal year 1999-00.

LD 424 **An Act to Remove Favorable Weighting of Consolidation in the School Funding Formula** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GLYNN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 424 proposed to remove the favorable weighting provided to school consolidation projects in the school construction project rating process. Under this bill, the State Board of Education could not assign any additional points to a school construction project that proposes to consolidate two or more existing schools into one new school building.