

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

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Rep. Mabel J. Desmond

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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 578

An Act to Remove the Percentage Reduction Method from the School Funding Law

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
GOODWIN
CASSIDY

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 578 proposed to remove the so-called "percentage reduction method" from the School Finance Act of 1985. Under this bill, the state share of school funding would return to 55% of the combined total state and local allocations for school funding.

LD 589

An Act to Reduce Property Taxes by the State Reimbursing Special Education Costs

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
DOUGLASS

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 589 proposed to require the State to subsidize at least 50% of a school administrative district's special education cost if a hardship is proven. This bill also proposed to require the Department of Education by January 15, 2000 to develop a formula to convert this special education subsidization into a property tax reduction for the taxpayers of the municipalities served by the district.

LD 624

An Act to Require Public Hearings for School Administrative District Referenda

PUBLIC 93

Sponsor(s)
WESTON
SMALL

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-87

LD 624 proposed to require school administrative districts to hold public hearings on all district referendum votes.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-87) changes from 10 to seven the number of days before a school administrative district referendum that the district board of directors must hold a public hearing on the referendum. The amendment also adds a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 93 requires school administrative districts to hold a public hearing at least seven days before a district referendum vote.