

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:

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Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. Mary E. Small

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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.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 42 provides an appropriation for the Educational Research Institute in the amount of \$150,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium to maintain the kindergarten to grade 12 education database and support targeted research projects. The appropriated funds may not be used for travel. To fund the appropriation, \$75,000 is deappropriated in each year of the biennium from General Purpose Aid to Local Schools and the University of Maine System.

LD 1215 **An Act Regarding the Eligibility of a Citizen to Serve as a School Board Member** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARVIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1215 proposed to prohibit a person and the spouse of a person suing a school board, the school administrative unit or a school within the jurisdiction of the board from serving on that school board if the suit could result in material gain.

LD 1216 **An Act to More Equitably Distribute General Purpose Aid to Schools Based on Property Values** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BELANGER KIEFFER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1216 proposed to remove the income and cost-of-living factors from the distribution of funding for education under the School Finance Act of 1995, leaving relative property valuation as the only measure of fiscal capacity. It also proposed to require that reductions in state funds be made by applying a mill rate to each school administrative unit rather than a percentage.

LD 1217 **An Act to Make Courses that Teach English as a 2nd Language Reimbursable by the State** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BELANGER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-373
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LD 1217 proposed to require that approved courses that teach English as a second language be included as a subsidizable program cost under the School Finance Act of 1985. Under this bill, schools with approved courses that teach English as a second language would be reimbursed by the State for the costs of these courses.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-373) proposed to replace the bill. Under this amendment, a school administrative unit that places a student in an approved transitional instruction program using English as a second language or bilingual techniques under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4701, subsection 2 would receive an adjustment in its state subsidy equal to the amount of supplemental costs for certified instruction programs that teach English as a second language instruction in the approved program. The adjustment to state subsidy would be limited to the salary and benefit costs of certified teachers with an endorsement in English as a second language or bilingual education, as well as the salary and benefit costs of education technicians providing services through a transitional