

# 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***

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***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.

LD 1561 proposes that all students in grade 12 be required to earn a certificate of mastery based on the State's learning results standards before graduating. The bill proposes that testing of students begin in the 2005-06 school year. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 1558**                      **Resolve, to Provide Incentives for School Breakfast Programs in Maine Public Schools**                      **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CATHCART ROWE		

LD 1558 was referred to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and proposed to establish a one-time grant program administered by the Department of Education to encourage schools that have a high percentage of their student body who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals to establish school breakfast programs. While this bill was ultimately indefinitely postponed, the substance of this bill, including a one-time General fund appropriation of \$240,000 in fiscal year 1999-00, was included in the Part II Budget bill (see P.L. 1999, c. 401, Part KK).

**LD 1568**                      **An Act to Require Parenting Skills to be Taught as Part of the High School Course of Instruction**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERKINS LONGLEY	ONTP	

LD 1568 proposed to amend current high school course requirements in health, safety and physical education by requiring teaching of parenting skills.

**LD 1609**                      **An Act to Create Greater Equity in Representation Among Municipalities Belonging to School Administrative Districts and Ensure That All School Referendum Votes Are Preceded by a Public Hearing**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LONGLEY	ONTP	

LD 1609 proposed to establish a limit on any method of apportioning voting strength among the municipalities represented on a board of directors for a school administrative district so that a municipality may not control more than 50% of the vote of a board of directors. LD 1609 also proposed applying the public hearing requirement that pertains to municipal referenda to school administrative district referenda as well.

**LD 1621**                      **An Act to Assist Maine Students**                      **ONTP**

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