

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

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Rep. Carol Weston

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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.

amend the funding formula components that determine the state and local share of operating costs and program cost allocations when the amount appropriated for the State's share of operating costs is less than 55% of total operating costs allocation and when the amount appropriated for the State's share of program costs is less than 60% of total program cost allocation. The bill also proposed to repeal the so-called "percentage rate" subsidy reduction method from the School Finance Act of 1985 and proposed to require that reductions in state funds be made by applying a mill rate subsidy reduction rather than a percentage rate subsidy reduction to each school administrative unit. The bill further proposed to remove the insured value factor from the maximum allowable tuition rate charged to a school administrative unit by a private school for enrolling secondary school students in private schools.

LD 1978 **An Act to Support the Graduate Education of Speech Pathologists for
Maine Schools** **PUBLIC 441**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CATHCART	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-161
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LD 1978 proposed to expand the current college student loan program for teachers to cover graduate study by speech pathologists seeking educational certification.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-161) proposed a technical correction in the bill to carry out the intent of the bill to provide student loans only to persons pursuing postgraduate study in the field of speech pathology. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 441 expands the current college student loan program for teachers to cover graduate study by speech pathologists seeking educational certification.

LD 2000 **An Act to Establish the Position of Early Childhood Consultant** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BAKER CATHCART	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2000 proposed to establish the position of early childhood consultant within the Department of Education to provide statewide leadership, consultation and direction for early childhood and early elementary efforts and programs.

LD 2026 **An Act to Make Certain Provisions for Exceptional Students Consistent
with Federal Laws and Regulations** **PUBLIC 424**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-669
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LD 2026, Part A proposed the following changes to the special education laws:

1. Amend part of the current definition of "exceptional student" with language consistent with federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and regulations defining the term "child with disability." The