

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

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 2054**An Act to Extend New Teachers' Probationary Periods****CARRIED OVER**Sponsor(s)
PIEHCommittee ReportAmendments Adopted

LD 2054 proposes to provide that a probationary period may not exceed two years for a person who has been employed as a teacher for more than three years or three years for a person who has been employed as a teacher for three or fewer years. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session and the Maine School Management Association and the Maine Education Association have been requested by committee letter to review and report to the committee next session on this bill and related probationary period issues.

LD 2074**An Act to Allow Local School Officials Greater Freedom in Disciplining Students****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
FULLERCommittee Report
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 2074 proposed to allow school superintendents to establish methods of discipline that may be used by teachers and principals. It also proposed to provide that a teacher or principal who uses an approved method may not be held civilly liable; and would require a parent who challenges the use of a method of discipline to submit a complaint to binding arbitration. This bill further proposed to amend the school truancy provisions to allow a school board to exempt from attendance requirements any student whom the board determines is habitually truant. Under this bill, a court could order the parent of an habitually truant student to pay a fine, attend classes with the student or reimburse the school for staff time incurred due to the student's misconduct. The court could also order the appointment of a surrogate parent or have the student placed under the aegis of the Department of Human Services, which then must develop a plan that ensures the student's attendance. Finally, the bill proposed that an habitually truant student may not be expelled or suspended unless that student is classified as an exceptional student due to behavioral problems or the student is placed in another program.

LD 2077**An Act to Transfer the Child Development Services System to the Department of Human Services****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
QUINT
RANDCommittee Report
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 2077 proposed a transfer of the responsibility for administering the Child Development Services System from the Department of Education to the Department of Human Services, effective July 1, 2000.

LD 2080**An Act to Provide Public School Choice****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
LIBBYCommittee Report
ONTPAmendments Adopted