

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

JULY 2000

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. Mary E. Small

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Rep. Carol Weston

Staff:

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

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
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

LD 2469

An Act to Revitalize Teacher Certification

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKEE DOUGLASS	OTP-AM	

LD 2469 proposed to restore structure, money and focus to local teacher certification support teams. The bill also proposed to require increased staffing for the Department of Education's certification office.

LD 2485

An Act to Promote Educational Opportunity and Economic Development

ONTP

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

LD 2485 proposed to establish the Business Information Technology program, the "BIT program," to provide financial assistance and incentives to postsecondary students in information technology education programs. The BIT program proposed to provide loans to information technology students, which would have been repaid by one year of service in a Maine information technology business for each year a person receives a BIT loan. The BIT program would have been administered by the Business Information Technology Board.

LD 2490

An Act to Provide Funding for Background Checks and Fingerprinting for School District Employees

**PUBLIC 791
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL B MENDROS	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-474 S-801 MURRAY

LD 2490 proposed to require the State to pay the costs of the fingerprinting and background checks. This bill also proposed to require the reimbursement of those employees or schools that have paid for the fingerprinting and background checks.

Under current law, beginning September 1, 1999, a person seeking new employment in an elementary or secondary school is required to undergo fingerprinting and criminal background checks; beginning July 1, 2000, all elementary or secondary school employees must undergo fingerprinting and criminal history record checks. The employee is required to pay the costs associated with the fingerprinting and background checks.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-474) is the majority report of the committee. The amendment proposed to provide that the State would have paid for the criminal history record check required for any person regularly employed in a public school during the 1999-2000 school year who requires Department of Education certification, authorization or approval to continue in that person's position. Under this amendment, the State would have paid for the initial \$49 cost for fingerprinting and conducting the state