

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Education and Cultural Affairs*

*July 2003*

**Staff:**

*Phillip D. McCarthy, Legislative Analyst  
Nicole A. Dube, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
13 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670*

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# Maine State Legislature



## Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

### 121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

#### Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i> .....	<i>Bills carried over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP-ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i> .....	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

**David C. Elliott, Director**  
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

**LD 301**

**An Act To Allow Access to State Postsecondary Educational Institutions to Maine Seniors**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ASH WESTON	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 301 proposed to allow residents 65 years of age and older to audit courses at any state postsecondary educational institution free of tuition charges. Under the proposed bill, individuals would be allowed to audit only if space is available, as tuition-paying students have priority in the case of limited class size.

**LD 326**

**An Act To Increase Access to Higher Education**

**PUBLIC 187  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN KANE	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-71
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LD 326 proposed to increase the number of foster care residents who are eligible for a tuition waiver at a state postsecondary educational institution from 25 to 35 new students per year in each year.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-71)** proposed to strike and replace the bill. The amendment proposed to increase the number of foster care residents who are eligible for a tuition waiver at state postsecondary educational institutions from 25 to 30 new students per year in each year, whereas the bill proposed to increase the number to 35. The amendment also proposed to clarify that the 5 additional tuition waivers must be available to eligible persons at state postsecondary educational institutions as follows:

1. Three must be available to eligible persons at the University of Maine System; and
2. Two must be available to eligible persons at the Maine Community College System.

The amendment also proposed to add an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 187 increases the number of foster care residents who are eligible for a tuition waiver at state postsecondary educational institutions from 25 to 30 new students per year in each year. The law also provides that the 5 additional tuition waivers must be available to eligible persons at state postsecondary educational institutions as follows: 3 must be available to eligible persons at the University of Maine System; and 2 must be available to eligible persons at the Maine Community College System.

Public Law 2003, chapter 187 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 16, 2003.