

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

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Sen. Michael F. Brennan
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

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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).

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 2nd 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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & 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 344

An Act To Amend the School Finance Act

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MURPHY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 344, which was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to amend the school funding formula in the following ways:

1. It proposed to change the school funding formula so that it would, during periods of diminishing state fiscal resources, direct state subsidy to students in the classrooms rather than to subsidize the costs for school administrators and limit the amount of the state subsidy allocated to all school administrative units for allowable reimbursements under the school funding formula to the level of the previous school year's state subsidy allocation;
2. It proposed that all costs for school administrators would be removed from the reimbursement formula for operating costs and program costs, and school administrator costs would be included in a separate category of the school funding formula and would be reimbursed at a lower rate of reimbursement under the school funding formula; and
3. It proposed that the savings from reimbursing school administrator costs at a lower rate would be redistributed to other program costs and operating costs eligible for state subsidy under the school funding formula.

LD 358

An Act To Promote Participation of Retired Professionals in the State's Classrooms

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUDLEY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 358, which was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to establish a program to recruit retired professionals to become teachers or mentors in the State's classrooms.

LD 386

An Act to Exempt School Units From Liability When Releasing Information Regarding School Employees Accused of a Crime

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'BRIEN J		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 386 proposed to allow a school administrative unit to release confidential information about an employee or former employee to another school administrative unit for the purpose of a reference for employment.