

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*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*

Members:

*Sen. Neria R. Douglass, Chair
Sen. Michael F. Brennan
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

*Rep. Glenn Cummings, Chair
Rep. Rosita Gagne-Friel
Rep. Jacqueline Norton
Rep. Jonathan Thomas
Rep. Edward D. Finch
Rep. Jeremy Fischer
Rep. Thomas W. Murphy, Jr.
Rep. Mary Black Andrews
Rep. Mary Ellen Ledwin
Rep. Gerald M. Davis*

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

6. Provides that the authority may use a single master promissory note for multiple disbursement of loans under the program.

LD 1344 An Act To Give Teachers a Greater Voice in School Improvement CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NORTON EDMONDS		

LD 1344 proposes to redefine as "working conditions" several specific issues that case law has identified as "educational policy." This modification to the bargaining law would allow school districts and school employees to negotiate such issues as preparation and planning time, work assignments and procedures for the evaluation of teachers. The bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1355 An Act To Increase State Funding for Renovation, Repair and Replacement of Schools for Local Communities by Limiting the State's Debt Limit for New School Construction ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROMLEY CUMMINGS	ONTP	

LD 1355 proposed that the Commissioner of Education be required to transfer debt service funds to be used to provide additional state subsidy to be distributed to school administrative units to offset school repair, replacement and renovation costs to increase the state share of school renovation, repair and replacement costs. The bill, in essence, proposed to freeze the debt service limit for state-supported school construction projects to the \$80,000,000 debt service limit established for fiscal year 2002-03; and, between fiscal year 2003-04 and fiscal year 2006-07, require the Commissioner of Education to transfer an increasing percentage of debt service funds to the foundation allocation component of the general purpose aid for local schools program. The bill also proposed to provide for a transfer of \$8,000,000 in fiscal year 2003-04 and an additional \$12,600,000 in fiscal year 2004-05 from the state debt service allocation to the School Revolving Renovation Fund to increase the state share of school renovation, replacement and repair costs.

LD 1365 An Act To Assist Maine Educators in Meeting the Quality Requirements of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKEE LAFOUNTAIN		

LD 1365 proposes to require the Department of Education to provide Maine educators with a range of options for demonstrating their proficiency and to assist Maine educators in meeting the requirements of the federal Elementary