

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and
First Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Education and Cultural Affairs*

August 2005

Members:

Sen. Elizabeth H. Mitchell, Chair

Sen. Elizabeth M. Schneider

Sen. Karl W. Turner

Rep. Jacqueline R. Norton, Chair

Rep. Edward D. Finch

Rep. Elaine Makas

Rep. Emily Ann Cain

Rep. Connie Goldman

Rep. Barbara E. Merrill

Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman

Rep. Gerald M. Davis

Rep. Peter Edgecomb

Rep. Scott E. Lansley

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature

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122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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
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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 1175 proposed to award diplomas to students who complete the goals of those students' individualized education plans.

LD 1185 An Act To Augment and Diversify the Ranks of Maine Educators ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VAUGHAN WESTON	ONTP	

LD 1185 proposed to allow an experienced teacher who is certified or licensed to teach in a foreign country to apply for a special certificate to teach in Maine.

LD 1187 An Act To Create a Senior Life Educator Certificate Program ONTP

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

LD 1187 proposed to allow an individual who does not have a teaching certificate but has life experience and a master's degree or above to be issued a senior life educator certificate.

LD 1193 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of ONTP
Maine To Ensure Equal Access to Education for Children in All
Parts of the State

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MERRILL NUTTING J	ONTP	

LD 1193 proposed to expand on the education provisions currently in the Constitution of Maine to guarantee that if the State undertakes to support local schools it must do so in a way that equalizes opportunity for all children whether they live in service center communities or in rural areas.

It also proposed to prevent the State from taking any steps that would lead to the closure of isolated schools if the closure would force children under 12 years of age to spend more than 2 hours on a school bus or children 12 years of age or over to spend more than 3 hours on a bus.

It also proposed to guarantee every municipality the freedom to decide how its schools would be organized and proposed to permit the State to adjust its aid to account for any inefficiency that would result from those local decisions.

It also proposed to make clear that these rights extend to and are enforceable by every Maine taxpayer.