

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

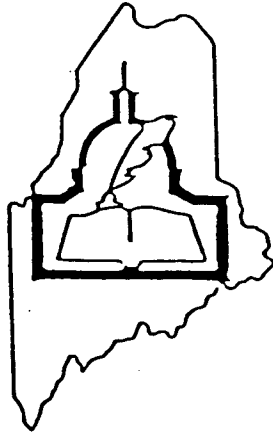
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION
BILL SUMMARY



MAY 1986

PREPARED BY:

Lars Rydell, Policy Analyst
David C. Elliott, Legal Analyst

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
STATE HOUSE, STATION 13 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
(207) 289-1670



HELEN T. GINDER, DIRECTOR
HAVEN WHITESIDE, ASST. DIRECTOR
GILBERT W. BREWER
DAVID C. ELLIOTT
MARTHA E. FREEMAN
JERI B. GAUTSCHI
CHRISTOS GIANOPOULOS
WILLIAM T. GLIDDEN, JR.

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL.: (207) 289-1670

JULIE S. JONES
JOHN B. KNOX
EDWARD POTTER
MARGARET J. REINSCH
LARS H. RYDELL
JOHN R. SELSER
ANDREA L. COLNES, Res. Asst.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
MAY 1986

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the Second Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "CA" if it is a committee amendment. If the amendment was adopted in the House, the letter H appears after the sponsor. If it was adopted in the Senate, the letter S appears.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-AM	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

LD AN ACT TO ALLOW LOCAL SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TO ND LD 2184
1936 ESTABLISH A DATE CERTAIN FOR HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION UP TO 7 ACADEMIC DAYS PRIOR TO THE
CONCLUSION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Sponsor: PEARSON, Hichborn, Soucy, Diamond, G.
Committee Report: OTP-ND-NT

SUMMARY: See New Draft, LD 2184.

LD AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF ENERGY SERVICE ND LD 2191
1938 COMPANIES AND 3RD-PARTY FINANCING FOR
CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENTS AT SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Sponsor: BOST, Brown, L., Handy, Roberts
Committee Report: OTP-ND

SUMMARY: See New Draft, LD 2191.

LD AN ACT TO DEFINE PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR THE LVWD
1977 TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOL

Sponsor: HOGLUND, Najarian, Coles, Gill
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: The bill would have clarified the definition of residence, for the purpose of computing the distance between a students' place of residence and the school the student attends. This is important for determining if a student lives beyond the minimum distance a student must live from school in order for the school unit to provide transportation. The particular problem which the bill attempted to resolve occurred in a congregate housing area where the school board used the outer boundry of the project to define residence.

LD AN ACT TO REPEAL CERTAIN RULE-MAKING LVWD
1992 AUTHORITY DEALING WITH STAFFING, STUDENT/
TEACHER RATIOS AND MINIMUM SCHOOL SIZE AT
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Sponsor: MURPHY, T., Rolde
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: This bill would have repealed the authority granted to the Commissioner of the Department of Educational and Cultural Services and the State Board of Education to jointly promulgate minimum standards for elementary and secondary schools concerning school staffing

and school size. A rule adopted by the Commissioner and the Board in 1985 regulating student-teacher ratios was criticized as being too restrictive and costly for school units to comply with. In early 1986, a more flexible rule was proposed for adoption by the Commissioner and Board. That rule will be subject to the public hearing and other rule-making requirements and should be in effect by this summer. In light of the proposed new rule, Leave To Withdraw was granted to the bill.

LD 2014 AN ACT TO DEFINE ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES AND TO DETERMINE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EDUCATION, CARE AND TREATMENT OF STATE AGENCY CLIENTS PL 1985 c. 789

Sponsor: Appropriations Committee Study
Committee Report: OTP-A

SUMMARY: The bill addresses the issue of assigning responsibility for the payment of services for handicapped students who need residential placements. It provides a definition of "residential placement" and "state agency client" and assigns responsibility for paying the cost of residential placements. The Department of Educational and Cultural Services pays 100% of the special education costs in the year of allocation. In the first year, 75% of the costs can be included in the State's share of the School Finance Act. This percent will decrease 15% percentage points in each succeeding year.

The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation will pay approved mental health treatment costs for state agency clients placed for educational purposes. It may pay these costs for out-of-state placements and the board and care costs of students placed for other than educational purposes.

The Committee Amendment (H-555) adds a fiscal note to the bill. The phase-in mechanism in the bill means there will be no additional costs this fiscal year. The total future cost will be \$6 million. The cost to the State will be \$3 million due to the removal of the costs from the School Finance Act formula.