

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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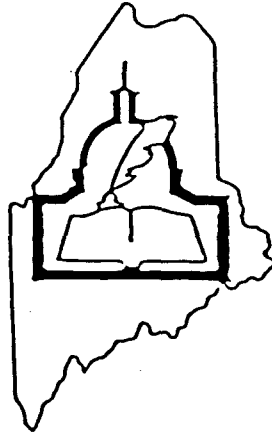


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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION

BILL SUMMARY



MAY 1986

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

Sponsor: BROWN, L., Gwadosky, Brown, A., Andrews  
Committee Report: OTP-AM

SA-465

SUMMARY: LD 2174 creates the Maine Vocational-Technical Institute System which is independent from the Department of Educational and Cultural Services and has the powers and privileges of an independent state agency (with some exceptions). The VTI system occupies a status similar to the status of the Maine Maritime Academy, FAME, and the Maine State Housing Authority.

The purpose of the bill is to provide the Maine Vocational-technical institutes with the flexibility required to respond to the changing needs of the state's economy and educational needs. By exempting the VTI system from the state's personnel law and a number of the fiscal regulations of the Department of Finance and Administration, the VTI system can transfer personnel, money, and resources within the system to better and more expeditiously meet the needs of the system and its component parts.

The Board of Trustees is the policy making authority of the system. The board as proposed initially was composed of 11 voting members including the Commissioner of Education and the State Development Officer. The State Board of Education and the University of Maine Board of Trustees each have 1 member on the VTI board. Seven (7) members represent business, labor, and the general public.

The Board of Trustees are empowered to

- 1) develop and adopt policies
- 2) oversee the administration of the VTI system
- 3) enter into contracts
- 4) develop the budget which is a line-category budget
- 5) receive, spend, transfer monies
- 6) approve the executive-director's nomination of directors of the institutes

- 7) develop personnel policies and procedures for the system
- 8) etc.

The Executive Director is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. The executive director implements the policies of the board.

The role of the executive-director is more as a facilitator and less as an administrator in the VTI system. The executive-director is the director of the Vocational-Technical Institute Support Office which is designed to be a service agency to the Institutes and not a strong central office.

The executive director assists the board in developing policies, the budget for the VTI system, and accounting procedures. The executive director is also required to promote cooperation among the institutes, but it is the Board of Trustees that is responsible for the coordination of programs, activities; and personnel among the VTIs.

Administration of the Institutes is left to the director of each VTI which the board of trustees oversees. The directors serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees.

The directors of each institute are empowered to:

- 1) appoint and oversee the faculty and staff at each VTI
- 2) evaluate the performance of the professional and non-professional staff at each VTI
- 3) appoint assistant directors, deans, etc.

The Administrative Council, as proposed in the unamended bill and which is to be organized according to procedures established by the Board, will serve to advise the executive director and the Board of Trustees with respect to the administration of the institutes and in regard to programs and activities of the VTI system.

The Select Committee, in the committee amendment, made the following changes to the bill:

1. Continuing adult education will be provided and funded in a manner that does not dismantle the current structure and process by which adult education is provided to Maine residents;

2. The Commissioner of Education and the State Development Officer are ex-officio, non-voting members of the board of trustees. The board elects its own chairman;

3. A quorum consists of a majority of the members, and no action may be taken without the affirmative vote of 6 members present and voting;

4. Three (3) additional bargaining units are established within the VTI system to provide for the smooth transfer of VTI personnel to the new VTI system;

5. The Board of Trustees will also report "transfers" of monies among accounts of the VTI budget to the Joint Standing Committee on Education;

6. The Governor's Office of Employee Relations will be the collective bargaining negotiator for the employer (board). This provision will sunset on June 30, 1987; and

7. The role and composition of the Administrative Council is clarified. The Council will be composed of the directors of the institutes who serve strictly in an advisory capacity to the board and executive-director. The Administrative Council has no voting or policy-making authority.

8. The transition clauses are expanded to assure a smooth transition.