MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE 113TH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

MAY 1988

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE FIRST & SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
MAY 1988

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. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are indicated as follows::

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

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Secretaries: Charlene Brann, Janet Jean, Earl Knox, Valarie Parlin; Research Assistant Hartley Palleschi. Finally, Secretary Laurette Knox, Legal Assistant Carolyn Chick, and Research Assistant Robert Dunn had special responsibilities in the preparation of the overall document.

Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.

LD An Act to Clarify the Access of the Commissioner of PUBLIC 2475 Educational and Cultural Services to Employee Records for Certification of Educational Personnel

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

BOST ESTES MATTHEWS K GOULD R A

SUMMARY

New Draft Of LD 1966

The original bill repealed the provision of law providing for access by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services for certification purposes to otherwise confidential school employee records.

The new draft clarifies that those documents are confidential, but provides for access by the commissioner for purposes strictly limited to his certification and school approval responsibilities. The new draft also clarifies an employee's right of access to documents in his file.

LD An Act to Add the Commissioner of Labor as an Ex Officio PUBLIC 2499 Member of the Board of Trustees of the Vocational-Technical 693 Institute System

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SMALL PARADIS J MATTHEWS K

DUTREMBLE D

SUMMARY

This bill adds the Commissioner of Labor as an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Vocational-Technical Institute System.

LD An Act to Clarify and Correct Errors and Omissions and to VETO

2501 Improve the Laws Relating to Education SUSTAINED

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

ESTES SMALL RANDALL BOST

SUMMARY

This bill is the Department of Educational and Cultural Services' omnibus bill to clarify and correct errors and omissions and to improve state education law. Several of the sections repeat provisions in last year's omnibus bill which was indefinitely postponed. The bill contains a section by section analysis in the Statement of Fact. The committee reviewed each section and proposed deleting several sections which were unnecessary and adding several new sections. In addition, a floor amendment to grandfather current

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certificate holders under the new education certification rules was approved in the House. That amendment was not approved in the Senate and led to appointment of a committee of conference.

The committee of conference report would have provided for a phase-in of the new certification requirements. Between July 1988 and July 1991, currently certified teachers, administrators and other education specialists whose certificates expire would be recertified under existing requirements. Educators seeking new certificates and master teacher certificates would be subject to the new certification requirements beginning in July 1988. After July 1, 1991, all educators would be subject to the new requirements. The amendment also provided for a detailed review and analysis of the certification laws to be coordinated by the Joint Standing Committee on Education, with the assistance of the State Board of Education, the Department of Educational and Cultural Services and the University of Maine System. The amendment also provided for a series of informational briefings to be conducted by the department to explain the new certification rules to educators.

The committee of conference report also deleted several sections of the original bill which are unnecessary at this time, applied the school approval process to vocational regions, provided that, for a superintendent's certificate to be revoked for hiring uncertified personnel, he or she must do so intentionally or knowingly and granted rule-making authority to the Maine Arts Commission.

The Governor vetoed the bill as amended by the committee of conference report, and the veto was not overridden.

LD An Act Relating to School Construction 2504

PUBLIC 803

SPONSOR(S)
LAWRENCE
CLARK N
DAVIS

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-573

SUMMARY

NUTTING

This bill repeals the current statutory debt ceiling limit for school construction projects of \$35 million and the percentage increase based on high demand contingencies and inflation. The ceiling and increase percentages are replaced by a table establishing an escalating debt service limit for fiscal years 1990-1992. For subsequent years, the debt service limit will be set by the Legislature during the preceding biennium. The bill also eliminates the current pay-as-you-go method of funding the State's share of school construction.

The committee amendment corrects the Fiscal Note.

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