

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION

JULY 1989

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Sen. Barbara A. Gill

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* Denotes Chair

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1989

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 for 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 abbreviated 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 Research Assistant Barbara McGinn, and secretaries: Charlene Brann, and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

Joint Standing Committee on Education

LD 17 An Act to Expand and Improve the School Year (Reported Pursuant to Resolves of 1987, Chapter 110) LV/WD

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
	LV/WD	

SUMMARY

This bill was part of the legislative recommendations of the Special Commission to Study Early Childhood Development and Education. The bill would have expanded the overall minimum length of the school year from 180 to at least 183 days. Both the current 175 instructional days and five in-service days held during the school year would have been maintained. In addition, the bill would have required that an additional 3 to 5 days be provided before the beginning of the school year for school-wide planning and professional staff development activities.

LD 18 An Act Appropriating Funds to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services for Early Childhood Education (Reported Pursuant to Resolves of 1987, Chapter 110) INDEF PP

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
	OTP-AM MAJ	H-43 MAJ REP
	ONTP MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill is one of the legislative recommendations of the Special Commission to Study Early Childhood Development and Education. It would have appropriated \$99,900 from the General Fund for the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to carry out several of the administrative recommendations of the commission.

The committee amendment provided for carrying the funds forward to the second year of the biennium.

The bill died on the Appropriations Table.

LD 38 Resolve, Creating the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Children within State Government (Reported Pursuant to Resolves 1987, Chapter 110) CARRIED OVER EDUC COMM

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
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SUMMARY

This resolve is one of the legislative recommendations of the Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and Education. It would have established the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Children within State Government. The Commission would be appointed by the Governor to study the programs and services for children currently provided by various state agencies and to evaluate the effectiveness with which those programs and services are provided. Following completion of its study, the commission would recommend whether a separate department should be established.

Several similar bills were introduced during the session and considered by other committees. The Education Committee was authorized to carry this resolve over to the next session when the status of the other bills should be more clear.

LD 39 An Act Directing the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to Study Class Size and Related Issues (Reported Pursuant to Resolves 1987, Chapter 110)

INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill is one of the legislative recommendations of the Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and Education. It would have required, through a phased in reduction in the maximum student-teacher ratio, classes of 15:1 for kindergarten and 18:1 for grades 1 through 4 by school year 1994-95. Under rules of the department, higher ratios could be permissible when a teacher aide or assistant is employed in the classroom.

The committee amendment retitled and replaced the bill to require the department to conduct a study of class size to: (1) Assess the current situation in Maine, (2) Review studies on the impact of class size reductions and (3) Assess and develop cost projections of the class size reductions proposed in the original bill.

The bill died on the Appropriations Table for lack of funding for the department's study.

LD 46 An Act to Improve the Early Childhood Educational Plans Grants Program (Reported Pursuant to Resolves of 1987, Chapter 110)

PUBLIC 548

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-412 PEARSON
S-54

SUMMARY

This bill is one of the legislative recommendations of the Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and Education. It expands the existing early childhood educational plans grant program to cover public school programs for 4 through 9 year olds, identifies the transition from preschool to public school and parental education needs as additional areas for grant programs, adds a model program grants component to the existing grant program, makes several technical improvements in the grants program and appropriates additional funds to carry out the purposes of this bill.

The committee amendment (S-54) would have created the Office of Early Childhood Education within the department and made several technical changes in the bill.

The Senate amendment (S-412) deletes the establishment of the office of each childhood education and the appropriations section because the necessary funds are included in the Supplemental Budget.