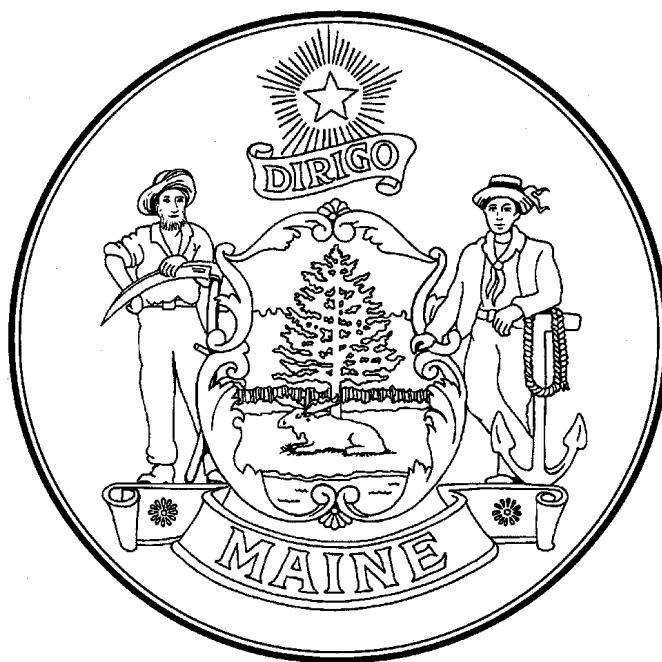


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

Staff: David C. Elliott, Legislative Analyst
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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.

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

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

OTP-AM

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

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

OTP-AM

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 early childhood education and the appropriations section because the necessary funds are included in the Supplemental Budget.