

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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* 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.

LD 268 An Act to Amend the School Finance Act to Clarify that
Certain Educational Costs Provided to Special Populations
are Allowable Special Education Costs

PUBLIC 209

SPONSOR(S)

GILL
SMALL
NORTON
HANDY

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-122

SUMMARY

This bill relates to educational services provided to students who are absent from school for long periods of time as a result of pregnancy, illness or injury, or hospitalization. Costs for educating these students have been included in the unit's program cost allocation as special education costs, pursuant to rules adopted by the DECS. The current method of reporting those costs, however, conflicts with federal law which provides federal assistance for certain costs. The bill resolves the conflict by clarifying that these costs are special education costs, although they are not included within the category that gives rise to federal assistance. The bill, therefore continues present practice with respect to reimbursing units for these costs, but clarifies that they are not eligible for federal assistance.

The committee amendment (S-122) clarifies that these services may be provided to students involved in any short-term substance abuse program, not just a program in a hospital.

LD 326 An Act to Increase the State Share of Education Funding

CARRIED OVER
APP/FIN COMM

SPONSOR(S)

BOST
ESTES
MARTIN J
PRAY

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-209

SUMMARY

The bill states legislative intent to provide state funding of at least 58% of the total subsidizable education expenses statewide in fiscal year 1991, and 60% beginning in fiscal year 1992. The bill also increases the current minimum state allocation to communities which, under the formula, receive less than the minimum.

The committee amendment (S-209) delays the effective date of the increase in the state share percentage, deletes the section relating to the minimum state allocation, and adds a fiscal note. The fiscal note indicates that the cost of increasing the state share percentage to 58% in fiscal year 1992 would be \$14,169,165; and to 60% in fiscal year 1993 would be \$39,745,348.

The bill was carried over in the Appropriations Committee. See LD 1439 for minimum allocation provisions.