

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.

which can be provided from existing resources at little or no additional cost to the school, (3) requiring the development of an alternative project which meets the minimum level of equivalent activity when a student chooses not to participate in dissection, (4) establishing the Biological Dissection Options Fund within the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to be used to provide equipment and materials to schools for use in offering alternative education projects, and (5) directing the department to assess the impact of this Act and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education in December, 1990.

**LD 446 An Act to Amend an Act Incorporating the Trustees of
Bridgton Academy**

P & S 13

SPONSOR(S)

HASTINGS
CROWLEY
JACKSON
TWITCHELL

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill allows Bridgton Academy to make the determination of the number of trustees of the academy and the quorum necessary for doing business by changing the bylaws of the Academy, instead of having those numbers set out in the charter of the academy.

**LD 465 An Act to Assist Local Educational Authorities in Replacing
Unsafe School Buses**

LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)

KILKELLY
NORTON
BREWER
ESTES

COMMITTEE REPORT

LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have provided for an additional inspection of pre-1977 school buses, development of a safety rating system to rank those buses according to their degree of unsafeness and replacement of those buses in accordance with their safety rating under a formula to be developed by the department.

**LD 478 Resolve, Requiring the Department of Educational and
Cultural Services to Study Textbooks in Schools and School
Libraries of the State**

**DIED BETWEEN
HOUSES**

SPONSOR(S)

HANDY
BURKE
CATHCART

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-164

SUMMARY

The original resolve would have required the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to study textbooks in Maine schools for the use and extent of sexist and racist language, ethnic and cultural stereotypes and historical accuracy and to study school libraries in Maine to determine the availability

of library services to local school systems, the currentness and breadth of library collections and the advisability of standards for state libraries. The department would have submitted its findings, recommendations for statewide standards and any accompanying legislation to the Legislature by January 1, 1990.

The committee amendment (H-164) would have maintained the original intent of the resolve, but also made a number of minor changes. The amendment changed the title of the resolve, provided funds to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services for contracting services to coordinate and conduct the study, recognized the voluntary assistance of approximately 700 librarians in conducting the study and changed the report date of the study to December 1, 1990.

Senate amendment A (S-158) the to committee amendment deleted textbooks as a subject of the study, changed the title of the resolve and reduced the appropriation based on the reduced study charge.

House amendment A (H-214) to THE committee amendment deleted textbooks as a subject of the study.

House amendment B (H-217) to committee amendment A deleted the part of the study established in the committee amendment to determine the extent to which sexist and racist language is used in public school textbooks. This amendment also reduced the appropriation based on the reduced study charge.

LD 530 An Act Relating to Driver Education Courses

**PUBLIC 179
EMERGENCY**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
PERKINS	OTP-AM	S-100 ESTES
PARADIS J		S-90
NORTON		
ESTES		

SUMMARY

Driver education courses taught by public and private secondary schools are regulated by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, and are exempt from regulation by the Board of Commercial Driver Education. The bill clarifies the authority of vocational centers and regions to offer driver education courses and provides for the same regulation as for public and private schools; standardizes the statutory language regarding driver education in Titles 20-A, 29 and 32; and requires that driver education standards set by the DECS must be at least as rigorous as those set by the Board of Commercial Driver Education. The bill also permits the Board to assist the Department in carrying out its regulation of driver education programs.

The committee amendment (S-90) provides for regulation of driver education programs in the Vocational Technical Institutes. The amendment requires the Board of Trustees of the VTI System to establish requirements for course curriculum and instructors which are no less rigorous than those of the Board of Commercial Driver Education. The amendment also requires instructors of Class 1 and Class 2 licenses to meet standards as rigorous as those of the Board.

The Senate amendment (S-100) is a technical change to correct an incorrect history.