

# 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. Stephen M. Bost  
Sen. Barbara A. Gill

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Rep. Wendy L. Ault

\* 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.

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

HANDY  
RUHLIN  
JOSEPH  
GAUVREAU

ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have repealed the current law obligating the Department of Human Services to provide education services to blind or visually impaired students and transferred that responsibility to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, thus consolidating all special education within that department. The bill also made transition provisions for the transfer of responsibility that would have taken place.

The committee did not find that the responsibility should be transferred but did determine that more coordination between departments and additional resources to the Division of Eye Care in DHS were necessary. The directors of the divisions of Eye Care and Special Education were directed to develop a plan for coordinating services and to report to the Education Committee. An amendment was proposed to the Supplemental Budget bill for additional itinerant teachers of the blind, orientation and mobility instructors and brailers.

**LD 700 An Act to Amend the Alternative Election Procedure for School Budgets on a Local Basis (BY REQUEST)**

**LV/WD**

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COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

BRAWN

LV/WD

SUMMARY

The bill would have permitted citizen-initiated budget proposals to be presented at school administrative district budget referenda. Voters in a district would be permitted to choose by referendum whether to allow the citizen-initiated proposals, which would be offered as alternatives to the budget submitted by the board of directors of the district. If the board budget is not passed, and a citizen-initiated proposal is approved, the citizen proposal would prevail. Otherwise, current law regarding budgets would apply.

**LD 717 An Act Concerning Voting Procedures for School District Budgets**

**LV/WD**

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COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SEAVEY  
RIDLEY  
ESTES

LV/WD

SUMMARY

Under current law, school administrative district budgets are voted on at district-wide meetings. Voters may, however, choose the alternative method of approval, which is approval at referenda in each municipality. The bill would have made the municipal referendum the method of approval, unless voters choose to hold district-wide meetings.