

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.

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
RYDELL	OTP-AM MAJ	H-443 MAJ REP
STEVENS P	OTP-AM MIN	H-471 CROWLEY
MCGOWAN		
ESTES		

SUMMARY

The bill requires each local school board to adopt a written policy setting forth the rights and responsibilities of students with respect to students' rights of free speech and freedom from unreasonable searches, and other rights and responsibilities as deemed appropriate by the board, and to distribute the policies in written form to all students. The policies would be developed in consultation with teachers, students, school personnel, parents and guardians, and must include certain rights set forth in the bill regarding free speech and freedom from unreasonable searches.

The majority committee report (H-443) requires written policies, but does not specify the rights of free speech and freedom from unreasonable searches as in the bill. The amendment also requires school boards to review the policies biannually and to amend them if appropriate.

The minority report (H-444) requires written policies and requires that the rights set forth in the policies include at least those rights guaranteed by the Maine and United States Constitutions, as interpreted by the highest state and federal courts, and requires biannual review of the policies.

The House Amendment to the majority report (H-471) removes reference to specific rights and responsibilities to be addressed in the written policies and limits the requirement for policies to junior high, middle school and high school students.

LD 1168 An Act to Provide Adjustments in the Educational Funding Formula

CARRIED OVER APP/FIN COMM

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
ROLDE	OTP-AM	H-437
ESTES		
PERKINS		
SMALL		

SUMMARY

LD 1168 would make several changes in the School Finance Act of 1985. The bill requires full state funding of all new education mandates for the duration of the mandate; permits school units which receive tuition students to be paid their full cost for educating those students, with the sending unit paying up to the state average per student cost and the State paying any amount by which the receiving unit's per student cost exceeds the state average; adds a low-income student index requiring school units to count each student qualified for a free or reduced school lunch as slightly more than one student; raises the per pupil reimbursement level by adding a second year of inflation adjustments to the current cost computation; and brings special education reimbursement up to current costs. The bill also limits the amount a school unit must pay for special education out-of-district placements by requiring the State to pay any amount that exceeds the foundation per pupil operating rate; requires the use of 1987 state valuation figures in calculating state subsidy for 1989-90; provides a different method of reducing the state subsidy of a unit that receives federal impact aid; and increases the current 5% minimum subsidy to 15%.