

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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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.

The committee amendment (H-437) retains 2 proposals from the bill and amends 2 others. The amendment retains the proposal that the State pay for all new education mandates for the duration of the mandate, and the proposal to update special education costs to current costs.

The amendment provides for a low-income student adjustment to be paid outside the finance formula. The bill would have provided a weighted student count within the formula. Providing the funds as an adjustment means that the amount received by a unit is not dependent on its state share percentage. The amendment also repeals the section of statute authorizing the state to reduce state subsidy to a unit that receives federal impact aid. The bill would have changed the method of reduction.

LD 1168 was carried over by the Appropriations Committee. The provision requiring state funding for all new education mandates was included by the Taxation Committee in LD 1088.

LD 1169 **An Act to Provide Comprehensive, Consolidated Student
Financial Assistance Services**

**PUBLIC 559
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)

MARTIN J
SMALL
GILL
PEARSON

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-694

SUMMARY

The purpose of this bill was to improve the delivery of higher education finance services in Maine by consolidating various student aid programs under one administrative unit. The original bill would have established the Maine Education Authority (MEA) to administer the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program, Blaine House Scholars and Financial Assistance Program, State Osteopathic Loan Fund Program, Postgraduate Medical Education Program, Stafford Loan Program, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, Maine Educators' Advanced Degree Program, Maine Educational Loan Authority (MELA) program, Student Educational Enhancement Deposit (SEED) plan, financial aid and career counseling program. The original bill also increased funding to the Maine Student Incentives Scholarship Program and contained language necessary for the establishment of a supplemental loan program under MELA for students with unmet needs. The membership of the MEA would have consisted of the persons who were formerly members of MELA with the addition of the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services. Provisions were included for the transfer of employees from the Division of Higher Education to MEA.

Committee amendment "A" (original majority report) replaced the original bill. This amendment would have retained all current state-administered student financial aid programs in the Division of Higher Education, except the SEED plan and the MELA program which would have continued under their present boards. This amendment also maintained the new supplemental loan program, the increased funds for the MSISP and made several necessary changes in the MSISP statute - clarifying definitions, eligibility, determination of need and distribution of scholarship provisions. The amendment also provided for an organizational audit by an independent consultant of the provision of higher education financial aid services by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services. The consultant would have presented a report to the Legislature on the management and operation of the department, including recommendations on the appropriate organizational governance structure for the provision of financial aid services to students and families in the state. The report would have been due by March 1, 1990, with an interim report in January.

Committee amendment "B" (original minority report) retained the intent and much of the language of the original bill to establish the MEA. This amendment would have: provided health and dental insurance

coverage for authority employees; revised the makeup and appointing process of the authority board of trustees; changed the appointment process and compensation for the executive director of the authority; established a requirement for annual reports to the Legislature on the various student financial aid programs; made changes in the MSISP statute to clarify definitions, eligibility, determination of need and distribution of scholarship provisions; amended the existing Blaine House Scholars law to include students who are Maine residents and who graduated from an out-of-state high school; and provided for the retention of state employment benefits for all state employees transferred to the new authority.

Committee amendment "C" (unanimous compromise committee report) replaces the original bill and strikes out the old title and inserts in its place 'An Act to Provide Comprehensive, Consolidated Student Financial Assistance Services'. This amendment establishes the framework for student financial aid services under the umbrella of the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) and sets up a transition advisory committee to advise the Legislature, the Governor and FAME on the transition to a comprehensive, consolidated student financial assistance program. This amendment also makes several changes in the MSISP statute, in addition to those of the original bill, to clarify definitions, eligibility, determination of need and distribution of scholarship provisions as in the original majority and minority reports. The advisory committee shall submit a written report, including a plan for implementing a comprehensive, coordinated student financial aid program and necessary legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education, the Governor and FAME not later than September 15, 1989. Following release of the advisory committee report, the Joint Standing Committee on Education shall introduce legislation to any special session or, if no special session is held, to the Second Regular Session of the 114th Legislature to fully implement a plan for the transfer and operation of the student financial aid services program. Not later than January 10, 1990, the 114th Legislature shall enact legislation to complete implementation of the student financial aid services program.

LD 1188 An Act to Create a Coalition Drug Education Program LV/WD

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
RICHARDS	LV/WD	
GILL		
FOSS		
PEARSON		

SUMMARY

This bill would have created the Coalition Drug Education Program which would have been administered by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, Division of Alcohol and Drug Education Services. The program was designed to address drug and alcohol trafficking and use among school-age children by making available grants to local law enforcement officers working with school administrative units to develop education and prevention programs. These grants would have been used for a number of school-based prevention and education efforts.

LD 1193 An Act Relating to Historic and Archaeological Preservation PUBLIC 171

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
ESTES	OTP-AM	S-102
SMALL		
FOSTER		
PARADIS J		

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies the authority of municipalities to enter into preservation agreements with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, requires a permit for excavation at sites protected by a preservation