

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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Staff: David C. Elliott, Legislative Analyst
Deborah C. Friedman, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Sta. 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 289-1670

MARTHA E. FREEMAN, DIRECTOR
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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL: (207) 289-1670

ANNIKA E. LANE
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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.

year's departmental bill. Neither of those was enacted, but they were both carefully reviewed and approved by the committee.

The committee amendment amends current law to prohibit possession of all firearms on school grounds and extends eligibility for the Blaine House Scholars Program to Maine residents who graduate from out-of-state high schools.

LD 1317 **An Act to Change the Method of Approving Equivalent Instruction in Home Schools**

**PUBLIC 537
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)

KILKELLY
BURKE
HANDY
BRAWN

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-544
H-636 HANDY

SUMMARY

The bill and the committee amendment (H-544) relate to the method of approving or recognizing "equivalent instruction" which is offered in programs other than public schools, such as home schools. A program must be approved or recognized by the State so that a student attending the program will be in compliance with the compulsory attendance law.

Under current law, a home school must be approved by the local school board and by the State. A "nonapproved private school" must submit a letter to the department of education certifying that it meets standards set by the Department in the "Guidelines for Equivalent Instruction in Nonapproved Private Schools." Under state rules, a private school differs from a home instruction program by the fact that the private school has two or more unrelated students.

The bill would have placed the "Guidelines for Equivalent Instruction in Nonapproved Private Schools" into statute and made them applicable to approval of home instruction programs. The committee amendment deleted this language and replaces it with a provision changing the method of approval for home schools only. Home schools would be approved by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services and would not be required to obtain approval of local school boards. A copy of the approval application would be sent to local boards for review. The purpose of local review would be to facilitate communication and cooperation between the local schools and children in home schools. Local approval of the application, however, is not required. Local boards must submit comments to the commissioner regarding the completeness of the application, under state rules. The commissioner then decides whether to approve the application. If the commissioner denies the application, the applicant may amend and resubmit the application to the commissioner.

The House amendment (H-636) recognizes current DECS practice of recognizing a student's attendance at a "nonapproved private school" that meets certain standards. The amendment adds attendance at a "private school recognized by the Department as providing equivalent instruction" to the list of equivalent instruction alternatives in statute.