

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.

| LD 1329 | An Act to Amend the Law Concerning the Collection of Fees |
|---------|--|
| | for General Educational High School Equivalency Certificates |

PUBLIC 525 EMERGENCY

| <u>SPONSOR(S)</u> | COMMITTEE REPORT | AMENDMEN | NTS ADOPTED |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|-------------|
| COLLINS | OTP-AM | S-210 | |
| SMALL | | S-431 | PEARSON |
| JOSEPH | | | |

SUMMARY

CARTER

This bill removes the fee charged for the issuance of any high school equivalency certificate and provides for a General Fund appropriation to be submitted by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to request the funds necessary to administer the general educational diploma program. Since fees derived from the issuance of general equivalency certificates provide less than 1/3 of the funds required to administer the general educational diploma program and additional financial resources are no longer available due to decreased revenues earned in the Permanent School Fund and reduced federal administrative allowances under the Adult Basic Education Act, the department was in need of a different funding source. The committee amendment adds an appropriation and an allocation to the fiscal note of the bill.

| | esolve, to Establis ducational Voucher | h a Select Study Commission to Systems | Study | ONTP |
|---|---|---|--------------------|------|
| <u>SPONSOR(S)</u> BRAWN RICHARDS GOULD R R BERUBE | | COMMITTEE REPORT ONTP | AMENDMENTS ADOPTED | |

SUMMARY

This resolve would have provided for a legislative study of the merits and impacts of educational voucher systems. The purpose of the study would have been to determine whether the use of vouchers to provide parents with a wider range of choices would be desirable. The commission would have examined the schedules and costs of the existing educational system and examined the merits of alternative voucher systems. Membership of the commission would have included representatives and principals of public and private schools, the Commissioner of the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, a member of an independent school association and the Legislature. The commission would have submitted its report, together with any implementing legislation, to the 114th Legislature no later than December 1, 1989.

| <mark>LD</mark> 1335 | Resolve, to Establi Examinations | sh Statewide Secondary Scho | ol Competency | ONTP-MAJ REP Accepted |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| SPONSOR(S) | | COMMITTEE REPORT | AMENDMENTS ADOPTED | |
| FOSS | | ONTP MAJ | | |

MIN

OTP-AM

| FOSS | |
|---------|--|
| GILL | |
| CROWLEY | |
| SMALL | |

SUMMARY

LD 1335 would have required that the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services conduct a study of standardized competency examinations and to determine what standardized mathematics and English

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|----------------------------|----------------|----|
| Education | | |

competency examinations should be used in secondary schools as graduation requirements. The study would have included: recommendations for ensuring statewide use of the same examinations; projected budget needs of the department to fully fund examinations; guidelines for the use of the examinations including exceptions from examination requirements for special education and other students; and a schedule of implementation for examinations to ensure statewide testing for the 1990-91 school year. The Commissioner would have submitted a report, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the 114th Legislature by December 1, 1989.

The Committee Amendment retained the provisions of the original bill and added a requirement that the Commissioner also conduct a study of the best method of identifying 8th grade students at risk of not graduating and of providing programs to assist those students to develop the competencies required to graduate. The amendment also called for the Commissioner's report to include projected budget needs of the department to fully fund the intervention assistance as well as a schedule of implementation of an intervention assistance program.

LD 1345 An Act to Improve and Enhance the Quality and Amount of ONTP Instructional Time for Students

| SPONSOR(S) | COMMITTEE REPORT | AMENDMENTS ADOPTED |
|------------|------------------|--------------------|
| MARSANO | ONTP | |
| COLLINS | | |

SUMMARY

This bill would have provided for a gradual increase in the minimum school year starting in 1990. One day would have been added in each of the following 5 years leading to a statutory minimum of 185 calendar days and 180 instructional days in 1994-95 and thereafter. The cost of each of these additional days would have been paid by state grants (outside of the School Finance Act) to all school administrative units. The commissioner would have been required to annually compute the cost of a school day and each unit would have received a grant to pay for the number of additional school days required under this bill each year on an ongoing basis. The bill would have also provided for grants to units to assist in the development of school improvement plans that address improvements in the quality and quantity of instructional time for students.

| LD 1397 | An Act to Amend and Clarify the Laws Relating to Services to | PUBLIC 499 |
|---------|--|------------|
| | Infants and Young Children, Ages O through 5, Who are | |
| | Handicapped or At-risk for Developmental Delay | |

| SPONSOR(S) | COMMITTEE REPORT | AMENDMENTS ADOPTED |
|------------|------------------|--------------------|
| GILL | OTP-AM | S-299 |
| ESTES | | |
| HANDY | | |
| RYDELL | | |
| | | |

SUMMARY

This bill amends existing law governing the administration and coordination of community services by the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Preschool Handicapped Children (ICCPHC) for infants and young children, ages 0 through 5, who are handicapped or at-risk for developmental delay. The purposes of the amendments are to reflect changes in federal requirements, to change the law to reflect current practices and to use current state-of-the-art terminology and definitions.