

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
114TH LEGISLATURE**

SPECIAL SESSION

1989

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

Prepared by:

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UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE**

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
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 (except Audit and Program Review, Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and Taxation). Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned to the 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
ONTO	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

Joint Standing Committee on Education

LD 1803 An Act Establishing the Higher Education Students Financial
Assistance Board

PUBLIC 598
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)

BOST
GILL
CROWLEY
NORTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill is an outgrowth of LD 1169/PL c. 559 from the First Regular Session. The bill establishes the Division of Higher Education Students Financial Assistance within the Finance Authority of Maine, creates the Higher Education Students Financial Assistance Board to advise FAME with respect to administration of programs affecting financial assistance for students in post-secondary educational institutions and enables the hiring of a director of the division.

LD 1805 An Act Concerning Geographic Isolation Grants CARRY OVER

SPONSOR(S)

SKOGLUND
MILLS
MARTIN J
COLLINS

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The bill establishes a formula for the geographic isolation adjustment, which is a subsidy paid to school administrative units that are geographically isolated. Current law does not provide a formula for calculating the adjustment, but establishes a maximum adjustment by stating that the adjustment shall not exceed the difference between the unit's education costs in the base year and the operating allocation for the year of subsidy payment (the operating allocation is roughly equal to the state average education operating cost). The bill would require that the adjustment be equal to the difference between the unit's actual education costs and the operating allocation. The change would be effective for adjustments payable in fiscal year 1991 and thereafter.

For 1989-90, the Department has allocated sufficient funds to pay the full amount (the difference between actual costs and the operating allocation). The bill requires the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to absorb any additional costs in their existing appropriation for 1991.

After receiving a letter from the Department of Education stating that the Department would not adopt rules prior to January 1990 calling for payment of less than the full amount, the Committee voted to carry the bill over to the Second Regular Session. It is also expected that the Department will report to the Committee in January on its recommendations for a formula for the adjustment.