

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION**

**AUGUST 1991**

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**Staff:**

*David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst  
Michael D. Higgins, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101, State House Station 13  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 289-1670*

*\*Denotes Chair*

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MICHAEL D. HIGGINS  
KANE ORBETON



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

KAREN L. HRUBY  
JILL IPPOLITI  
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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
AUGUST 1991**

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 volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

<b>PUBLIC XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<b>P&amp;S XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<b>RESOLVE XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<b>CON RES XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<b>CARRIED OVER</b>	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
<b>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<b>ONTP</b>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<b>LVWD</b>	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
<b>INDEF PP</b>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<b>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</b>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<b>VETO SUSTAINED</b>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<b>UNSIGNED</b>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<b>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</b>	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

**LD 92      An Act to Require that Handwriting be Taught from Kindergarten to Grade 6 (By Request)      LV/WD**

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
HANLEY                                      LV/WD

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required that handwriting be taught in the public schools from kindergarten to grade 6.

**LD 110      An Act to Increase the State's Percentage of School Funding      ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
ERWIN                                      ONTP  
ESTES  
HANDY  
O'DEA

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have increased the state share percentage of the total allocation statewide from 55% to 60% and increased the guaranteed minimum state share of each school administrative unit's total allocation from 5% to 10%.

**LD 128      An Act Concerning Federal Impact Aid for Education      CARRIED OVER**

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
ESTES  
PINES  
CLARK N  
LAWRENCE

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have provided a different method of reducing the state subsidy to school administrative units that receive federal impact aid. It would have allowed each unit to retain a greater amount of federal impact aid to cover costs for those students above the subsidized amounts before subtracting any additional amounts from the state subsidy of the unit. Current law requires local units to subtract from the state subsidy an amount equal to the impact aid received, multiplied by a fraction equal to subsidizable costs in the base year divided by all costs in the base year.

**LD 138      An Act to Appropriate Funds to Continue the Surname Index Project at the Maine State Library      INDEF PP**

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
SPEAR                                      OTP-AM                                      H-113  
NORTON

**SUMMARY**

This bill appropriates \$11,320 to continue the Surname Index Project under the direction of the Maine State Library. The project is a largely volunteer project begun in 1970 to record, catalogue and index genealogical and historical data about early Maine settlers.

The Committee Amendment (H-113) increases the FY 91-92 appropriation to provide for the one-time costs of purchasing computer hardware and software for the project and adds an appropriation for FY 92-93 for personnel and supplies for the project. It is anticipated the project will take at least 2 years to complete.

**LD 142      An Act to Revise Transition Services for Disabled Students**

**PUBLIC 180**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
BOST ESTES HANDY BRANNIGAN	OTP-AM	S-85

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires school administrative units to provide a yearly statement of transition services needed by youths with disabilities as part of the transition from school to the community, including where appropriate, a statement of responsibilities of cooperating state agencies (Education, Human Services, Corrections, Labor, Mental Health and Mental Retardation). The bill makes state law consistent with the recently reauthorized federal Education of the Handicapped Act

The Committee Amendment (S-85) retains the original intent of the bill and clarifies that the statement of services must be provided for all youths with disabilities in transition who are 16 or older and enrolled in school and may be provided at a younger age. If the agreed-on transition services are not provided by any of the cooperating agencies, the amendment directs the school to reconvene the agencies and develop a strategy to provide the necessary services. The amendment also states that school administrative units are not responsible for providing noneducational services.

**LD 196      An Act to Expand the Blaine House Scholars Program to Assist  
in Teacher Certification**

**PUBLIC 553**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
HANDY CROWLEY LEMKE ESTES	OTP-AM	H-75

**SUMMARY**

This bill expanded the Blaine House Scholars Program to allow loans to be awarded to students in postbaccalaureate teacher certification programs. The bill authorized up to 15% of the funds available under the Blaine House Scholars Program to be used for these loans for 2 years and required the Finance Authority of Maine to make recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by January 1, 1992, to ensure the appropriate allocation of all the funds available for the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-75) fully incorporated into the Blaine House Scholars Program the new category of loans to students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher certification created by the bill. The amendment defined those individuals who are eligible for loans under the new category and established the relationship between loans in the new category to other loans provided by the Blaine House Scholars Program. The amendment also established a flexible allocation of funds between the different types of Blaine House Scholars Program loans available and added a fiscal note.