

# 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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**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 556      An Act Concerning Reimbursement for Certain Medical Services      P & S 11**  
**as Special Education Services**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
LAWRENCE ESTES HANDY	OTP-AM	H-147

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required the Department of Education to include the treatment by optometrists of vision problems in elementary and secondary school students by means of behavioral training as an allowable special education service. Behavioral optometry includes exercises and training to develop visual skills such as focusing, following moving objects, turning the eyes together and depth perception.

The Committee Amendment (H-147) replaces the original bill and directs the Department of Education to conduct a study of the cost, feasibility and means of including certain medical services as reimbursable special education costs when necessary to provide an appropriate education. The department will report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by January 15, 1992.

**LD 569      An Act to Amend the Composition of the Board of Trustees of      PUBLIC 140**  
**the Maine Technical College System**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HANDY CROWLEY PARADIS J CAHILL M	OTP-AM	H-100 S-75    MCCORMICK

**SUMMARY**

This bill revised the composition of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Technical College System by removing 2 ex officio members and replacing members who serve on other boards with members from the general public.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-100) added language directing the Governor to consider statewide geographical representation and gender equity when appointing board members.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-75) added technical language to avoid a conflict with Public Law 1991, chapter 20, also enacted in the First Regular Session of the 115th Legislature.

**LD 601      An Act to Provide for Local Control in the Selection of      ONTP**  
**Artists and Writers for Funding**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
AULT NORTON FARNUM	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have amended the Arts Commission statutes to require that selection of artists and writers to participate in commission programs must be the decision of local non-profit agencies, not the Commission. After consideration, the committee granted leave to withdraw to the bill and requested the Commission to consider several issues raised by proponents of the bill and to report back to the committee. The issues which the Commission will address are: (1) attaining an appropriate mix of types

of artistic disciplines represented in the programs; (2) providing appropriate representation of commercial and noncommercial artists in the programs; and (3) assuring an open process in the development of eligibility criteria, the selection of members of peer review committees and the selection of artist to participate in the program. The Commission will report to the committee by December 31, 1991

**LD 613      An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Postgraduate Education      PUBLIC 572**  
**in the Field of Medicine**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MARTIN J CLARK N NORTON SHELTRA	OTP-AM	H-165

**SUMMARY**

The original bill appropriated funds to the Finance Authority of Maine to increase the number of primary care physicians for rural and underserved areas of Maine by reestablishing the medical contract program, dropped in 1981, at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-165) removed the emergency preamble, the appropriation and the emergency clause. It added a provision stipulating that new positions at a college of osteopathic medicine not be purchased by decreasing the number of allopathic positions currently purchased. It also added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 663      An Act to Provide Access to School Facilities and Programs      ONTP**  
**for Home-instruction Students (By Request)**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
STEVENSON	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

Under current law, home-instruction students may only participate in school programs with the explicit approval of school authorities. This bill would have directed the Department of Education to designate a range of regularly offered nonacademic programs to be made available to home-instruction students by the school administrative unit within whose jurisdiction they reside. The bill would have standardized the nonacademic program opportunities available to home-instruction students. The bill also required that school administrative units provide access for home-instruction students to academic facilities.

See also LDs 830, 888 and 904 on home schooling issues.

**LD 677      An Act to Establish an Office of the Ombudsman at each      ONTP**  
**Campus of the University of Maine System**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
O'DEA CATHCART	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have established an ombudsman office at each campus of the University of Maine System for the purpose of investigating complaints or grievances brought by students, faculty or staff.