

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:

PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
LVWD	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<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 848 An Act to Establish a School Choice Program**ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)
 STEVENS A
 GOULD R R
 SKOGLUND
 ST. ONGE

COMMITTEE REPORT
 ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

This bill would have established an enrollment options program patterned after a similar program in Minnesota. The program would permit any student to attend the public school of the student's or the student's family's choosing subject to some limitations. The School Finance Act would have been amended to allow funding "to follow" the student and provide an incentive for each school to maintain or increase enrollment levels. The Commissioner of Education is responsible for the coordination and implementation of this bill.

LD 1152 is a related bill. The minority report of LD 1152 (not adopted) incorporates the provisions of LD 848.

LD 852 An Act Relating to Restructuring Maine Schools**ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)
 COLLINS
 ESTES
 CROWLEY
 NORTON

COMMITTEE REPORT
 ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this bill is to stimulate school restructuring in order to enhance the learning opportunities of students. The bill defined "school restructuring," encouraged the coordination and cooperation among various educational and community groups in establishing local school restructuring efforts and clarified the process by which waiver of existing departmental rules may be used to encourage school restructuring. The bill also would have permitted the State Board of Education to waive, in certain limited circumstances, applicable program approval requirements for educator preparation programs so that training programs are able to produce educators who meet the requirements of restructuring schools. The bill also directed the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education to assess the impact of school restructuring efforts and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by December 1, 1992.

LD 1189, a nearly identical bill, was enacted.

LD 881 An Act to Amend the University of Maine System Charter**PUBLIC 147
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)
 BOST
 O'DEA
 CATHCART

COMMITTEE REPORT
 OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-80**SUMMARY**

The original bill authorized the Trustees of the University of Maine System to adopt rules for the establishment and policing of parking spaces for handicapped persons.

The bill also required that speed limits within property owned by or under the control of the University of Maine System be established by the Department of Transportation and the Maine State Police. The University of Maine System was required to post the speed limits under the direction or policies of the Department of Transportation.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-80) added an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the original bill. It also added a provision requiring the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to hear citizen input at each board meeting and guaranteed that each citizen may address the board for a period of time established by the board.

LD 882 An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Certification of Educational Personnel UNSIGNED

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
ESTES	OTP-AM	S-253
CROWLEY		S-431 BRANNIGAN
NORTON		
CAHILL M		

SUMMARY

The bill provided for professional certification of experienced out-of-state teachers, permitted professionally certified teachers to teach one period per day out of their certified subject area or grade level and established a specific timetable during which appeals from certification denials or revocations must be heard and decided.

The Committee Amendment (S-253) clarifies the circumstances in which an out-of-state teacher will be granted professional certification. The amendment deletes the provisions of the bill governing out-of-field teaching and the appeals process and directs the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to study those issues and to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Education with recommendations. The amendment also adds new provisions to the bill abolishing the use of minimum qualifying test scores to prevent applicants from attaining provisional certification. Block grants for teacher certification costs incurred at the local level are redirected from municipalities to school administrative units in the amendment. Finally, the amendment makes technical changes in the bill, adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause and adds an appropriation section and a fiscal note.

The Senate Amendment (S-431) made a technical addition to the Committee Amendment to allow the block grant to go directly to school units.

LD 886 An Act to Establish a Budget Authority within School Administrative Districts ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CAHILL P	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have authorized the creation of district budget authorities to assist the board of directors of a school administrative district in formulating the district's budget. Before July 1, 1992 the municipalities comprising each school administrative district would vote on whether or not to form a district budget authority. If a majority of voters in the district approved formation, the district budget authority would be created consisting of 11 members elected proportionally from the district's municipalities based on the number of students from each municipality attending school in the district. Members would have served 2-year terms.