

# 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.

Under the bill, teachers certified in education of blind and visually impaired students must demonstrate competence in reading and writing Braille.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-318) deleted the definition of "blind", made a number of technical changes to the bill and added a fiscal note.

**LD 940**      **An Act to Increase the Availability of Sign Language Training**

**PUBLIC 279**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
FARNSWORTH CLARK N BUSTIN HICHENS	OTP-AM	H-291

**SUMMARY**

The original bill sought to improve the availability of and access to qualified interpreters for the deaf to ensure effective communication between deaf and hearing people. To accomplish this purpose the bill:

1. Designated American sign language as the official state language of the deaf community;
2. Required school administration units to offer at least annually a course of instruction in signed communication in their secondary schools or as part of adult education programs;
3. Required that American sign language be considered a foreign language for courses of instruction in foreign languages in secondary schools and for entrance requirements and course offerings for academic credit in postsecondary degree-granting educational institutions; and
4. Established Deaf Culture Week, which is the last full week in September, as a commemorative week and special school observance.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-291) deleted number 2 and 3 above and directed the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, the Department of Education and the University of Maine System to implement a pilot project creating an American sign language course to be delivered over the University of Maine System's interactive television system. The course is scheduled to be broadcast beginning in September 1992.

**LD 970**      **An Act Making Course Grades Awarded by Teachers Final**

**PUBLIC 248**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HANDY LEMKE PFEIFFER	OTP-AM      MAJ ONTP          MIN	H-244      MAJ REP

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a statutory description of the role of teachers.

The Committee Amendment (H-244) replaces the original bill and adds a new section to existing law dealing with school instruction. The new section clarifies the intent of the original bill by making the grade awarded to a student by the teacher of a course final except where mistake, fraud, bad faith or incompetence occurs.