

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.

**An Act Concerning the Lease or Lease-purchase of School Bus
Garage and Maintenance Facilities and School Administrative
Office Space**

SPONSOR(S)
GWADOSKY
CROWLEY
MARTIN J
AULT

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-292

SUMMARY

Under current law, part of the state subsidy that school administrative units receive is based on the funds they expend to lease bus garage and maintenance facilities. The subsidy does not cover funds used for the lease-purchase of bus garage and maintenance facilities.

This bill included lease-purchase payments for bus garage and maintenance facilities and school administrative office space in state subsidy calculations.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-292) deleted the definition of "actual local operating costs" from the original bill, added a definition of portable, temporary classroom space and added a fiscal note.

**An Act Relating to Financial Responsibility for Students Not
Residing with Parents or Legal Guardians**

SPONSOR(S)
RICHARDSON

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-361

SUMMARY

This bill provided that whenever a student is not residing with the student's parent or legal guardian because of a broken home or intolerable home conditions, the unit where the student attends school may apply to the commissioner for a determination as to which school administrative unit shall pay the costs of educating that student.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-361) added a provision describing the process by which the appropriate subsidy for students not living at home and transfer students is calculated. The amendment also required the same subsidy calculation for a student from a broken home who is attending school in a unit other than where that student's parent or legal guardian resides if the Commissioner of Education has determined that the unit must pay the cost for educating that child.

**An Act to Revise the Laws Concerning Innovative Educational
Grants**

SPONSOR(S)
GILL
ESTES
O'GARA

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM MAJ
ONTP MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-152 MAJ REP

SUMMARY

The original bill increased the maximum allowable local school-based grant from \$10,000 to \$30,000, established a minimum state match of 50% and allowed for continuing funding from a maximum of 3 years to a maximum of 5 years.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-152) deleted the provision that permits a school administrative unit to include allowable costs for school-based innovative grant projects in the unit's subsidized cost under the School Finance Act of 1985. As a result of the change, the bill had no fiscal impact.

**LD 1070 An Act to Improve Student Financial Assistance Services
(Reported Pursuant to Public Law 1989, chapter 559, section
12 and chapter 698, section 74)**

**PUBLIC 603
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
	OTP-AM	H-646 S-432 BRANNIGAN

SUMMARY

The original bill was submitted pursuant to Public Law 1989, chapter 698 to implement the unanimous report of the Student Financial Aid Transition Advisory Committee. The bill repealed the Student Educational Enhancement Deposit Act establishing a prepaid tuition program. For various reasons that program had not been implemented. The bill replaced the Student Educational Enhancement Deposit Act with a college savings bond program to be run by the Treasurer of State with assistance from the Finance Authority of Maine. The bill provided authority for the Finance Authority of Maine to offer a supplemental loan program, as part of a "one-stop-shopping" financial aid program, which is parallel to the current Maine Educational Loan Authority loan program. The bill also authorized the Maine Educational Loan Authority to contract with the Finance Authority of Maine or other appropriate entity to provide administrative services for the current Maine Educational Loan Authority supplemental loan program. Finally, the bill transferred funds remaining in the Student Financial Aid Transition Advisory Committee's account after payment of its expenses to the Finance Authority of Maine for use in providing financial aid counseling and outreach services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-646) made several technical changes to the bill and deleted the provision that authorizes the Maine Educational Loan Authority to contract with the Finance Authority of Maine to provide administrative services for the current Maine Educational Loan Authority supplemental loan program. The amendment deleted the provision that transfers funds remaining in the account of the Student Financial Aid Transition Advisory Committee to the Finance Authority of Maine to be used to provide counseling and outreach related services. The amendment added a provision that transfers funds from the Department of Education to the Finance Authority of Maine to pay dues for membership in the New England Board of Higher Education. The amendment also added an appropriation and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-432) removed the sections of the bill transferring the payment of dues from the Department of Education to the Finance Authority of Maine.

LD 1088 An Act to Amend the School Finance Laws

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
SIMPSON ESTES HANDY CAHILL M		

SUMMARY

This bill would have advanced the dates by which the Commissioner of Education must notify school boards of their allocations. It would also have allowed the Legislature to increase appropriations, but prohibited any decrease in appropriations, after the initial allocations have been determined. The sponsor originally planned to request leave to withdraw, but consented to the Committee's request that