

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 1145 An Act to Provide a Vocational Planning Initiative for Secondary School Students

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
RICHARDSON

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have established a vocational options curriculum to be designed by local vocational education staff in accordance with guidelines developed in consultation with the State Board of Education. The initiative attempted to refocus the educational mission of vocational centers and regions by including programs designed for at-risk and general track students. The curriculum would have assisted a student who contemplates dropping out in examining vocational career options offered within the local vocational center or region.

LD 1152 An Act to Provide Educational Choice

ONTP-MAJ REP

SPONSOR(S)
BRAWN
GOULD R R

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have established the Tuition Voucher Program within the Department of Education to increase educational choice for students and parents. Participation in the program would be mandatory for public schools and for private schools approved for tuition purposes. Other private schools would have the option of participating. A student could choose to attend any participating school and the school would be reimbursed by the State based on the number of students it enrolls.

The Committee Amendment (S-304) (not adopted) replaced the original bill and would have established a public school open enrollment program to be administered by the Commissioner of Education. The choice program, similar to that proposed in LD 848, would have gone into effect statewide on July 1, 1994. In the meantime, this amendment established pilot projects to be set up by the commissioner to test and evaluate the operation of the public school choice program. The commissioner was to report findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 1993.

LD 1189 An Act Relating to Restructuring the Public Schools

PUBLIC 407

SPONSOR(S)
ESTES
CROWLEY
NORTON
HANDY

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-246
S-302 BUSTIN

SUMMARY

This bill describes the importance of school restructuring, clarifies the definition of that term, calls for coordination and cooperation among various educational and community groups in establishing local school restructuring efforts and clarifies the process by which waiver of existing rules may be used to encourage school restructuring.

The bill also directs 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.

The Committee Amendment (S-246) makes several changes to clarify the original bill. The amendment revises the definition of school restructuring to stress the importance of active teaching and involved learning processes in the restructuring process, to promote more community involvement in establishing goals for restructuring schools, to clearly recognize the need for expanding the role of schools in the community and to take into account the importance of technology in the restructuring effort. The amendment makes several minor revisions in the assessment and reporting requirements of the Department of Education and makes other technical changes in the bill.

The Senate Amendment (S-302) amendment was offered on behalf of the Committee on Bills in Second Reading to make a technical correction. The amendment changes a statutory section designation to avoid a conflict with a provision enacted by Public Law 1991, chapter 119.

LD 1223 An Act to Permit Maine School Administrative District Number P & S 62
53 to Apply for State School Construction Aid for a Building
to be Operated in Conjunction with Maine Central Institute

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
GOODRIDGE PRAY POULIOT	OTP-AM	H-232

SUMMARY

This bill authorized Maine School Administrative District Number 53 to apply for state aid for a life skills building to be used in conjunction with the program of Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield, which provides secondary education to the students of Maine School Administrative District Number 53 on a tuition basis. The bill also provided for the Commissioner of Education to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education with recommendations regarding similar projects in school units that provide the tuition of their students to private academies.

Committee Amendment "A" (H232) deleted the provision requiring the Department of Education, for purposes of rating a school construction project, to treat the facilities and programs of the Maine Central Institute as if they were the facilities and programs of Maine School Administrative District Number 53. It clarified that the State Board of Education is not bound by the minimum site size for school construction projects, but shall determine whether the site is adequate for the proposed building. The amendment also deleted the provision that requires the Commissioner of Education to report on recommendations regarding similar building projects and added a fiscal note.

LD 1243 An Act to Increase the Minimum State Allocation to School ONTP
Units

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
KERR HEINO HOGLUND	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have increased the guaranteed minimum state share of each school administrative unit's total allocation from 5% to 20% on July 1, 1991, from 20% to 25% on July 1, 1993 and from 25% to 30% on July 1, 1995.