

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION**

MAY 1992

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Staff:

Michael D. Higgins, Legislative Analyst

**Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Station 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670**

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KANE ORBETON



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL.: (207) 289-1670

KAREN L. HRUBY
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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

MAY 1992

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 far right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| PUBLIC XXX | Chapter # of enacted Public Law |
| P&S XXX | Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law |
| RESOLVE XXX | Chapter # of enacted Resolve |
| CON RES XXX | Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses |
| EMERGENCY | Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days |
| CARRIED OVER | Bill carried over to Special Session |
| ONTP | Ought Not to Pass report accepted |
| LVWD | Leave to Withdraw report accepted |
| INDEF PP | Bill Indefinitely Postponed |
| FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT | Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote |
| DIED BETWEEN BODIES | House and Senate disagree; bill died |
| CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE | Committee of Conference formed but unable to agree |
| VETO SUSTAINED | Legislature filed to override Governor's Veto |
| UNSIGNED | Not signed by Governor within 10 days |
| DIED ON ADJOURNMENT | Action incomplete when session ended; bill died |

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, especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

Joint Standing Committee on Education

LD 128 An Act Concerning Federal Impact Aid for Education

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

ESTES
PINES
CLARK N
LAWRENCE

COMMITTEE REPORT

ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have provided a different method of reducing the state subsidy to school administrative units that receive federal impact aid. It would have allowed each unit to retain federal impact aid to cover costs above the subsidized amounts and subtracted any additional amounts from the state subsidy of the unit. Current law requires local units to subtract from the state subsidy an amount equal to the impact aid received, multiplied by a ratio equal to subsidizable costs in the base year divided by all costs in the base year.

LD 1088 An Act to Amend the School Finance Laws

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

SIMPSON
ESTES
HANDY
CAHILL M

COMMITTEE REPORT

ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill was carried over from the first session of the 115th Legislature as a vehicle for a number of concepts that would have made changes in the school funding laws. Because of budget restraints during the second session of the 115th Legislature, the bill was killed in committee at the end of the 2nd session.

The original bill would have advanced the dates by which the Commissioner of Education must notify school boards of their annual allocations of general purpose aid. It would also have allowed the Legislature to increase appropriations, but prohibit any decrease in appropriations, after the initial allocations have been determined.

LD 1252 An Act to Amend and Improve the Laws Relating to Education

PUBLIC 655
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)

BRAWN
BARTH
O'GARA

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-918 KILKELLY
S-552 ESTES

SUMMARY

This bill is the department's omnibus bill; it:

1. Changes the name of high school equivalency certificates to high school equivalency diplomas to be consistent with federal statutes;

2. Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to carry forward unexpended balances in the accounts established for the purpose of the schooling of children in the unorganized territories.
3. Authorizes superintendents of schools to issue work permits and gives the Commissioner of Education rule-making authority to administer this section;
4. Adds statutory reference to the vocational centers in Ellsworth and Sanford;
5. Clarifies the requirement for a favorable local vote for school construction projects that are not funded by the State;
6. Eliminates references to state institutions for the mentally ill and mentally retarded to be consistent with the proposed change in Title 20-A, section 15603 and the changed definition of state-operated institution;
7. Expands the definition of state-operated institution to include a school operated by the Department of Education which includes the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf; and
8. Changes terminology to enable school administrative units to have more flexibility in offering programs and services to Maine's preschool exceptional children. Currently, the subsidy is provided to school administrative units for programs they operate. These changes would permit schools to use other agencies or organizations to provide these programs or services.

The bill was introduced during the 1st Session and reported out of committee OTP-A. The amended bill was assigned to the Appropriations Table due to potential loss of revenue to the General Fund resulting from the section authorizing the department to carry forward unexpended balances in the unorganized territories education account instead of returning any balances to the General Fund. A decision was made to strip the carry forward provision from the bill; but the bill died on the table when the 1st Regular Session suddenly adjourned in June.

The bill was recalled to the House from the dead files during the 2nd Session and amended on the floor to incorporate the amendments made by the committee except the carry forward provision which was eliminated. In addition to eliminating the carry forward provision, the House Amendment (H-918):

1. Makes several technical changes to correct cross-references and other obsolete terms in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A;
2. Authorizes elected directors of school boards in school administrative districts to take the required oath of office before a notary public as well as a dedimus justice;
3. Cross-references the superintendent's responsibilities in issuing student work permits under Title 26; and
4. Removes the requirement that Maine studies be taught as a separate course in high school. Maine studies still must be taught once in grades 6 to 8 and the concepts must now be integrated into high school classes.

The Senate Amendment (S-552) increases the size of the Maine Maritime Academy Board of Visitors from 12 to 25 members to 25 to 50 members.