

# 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.

**LD 1694      Resolve, to Establish Minimum Graduation Requirements for High School Students**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
FOSS

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This resolve would have required the Commissioner of Education to determine what mathematics and English competency examinations are to be used as a requirement for high school graduation on a statewide basis.

This resolve also required the commissioner to develop a method of identifying and assisting those students in need of remediation.

**LD 1705      Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Feasibility of a Capital Cultural Center**

**RESOLVE 46  
EMERGENCY**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
LIPMAN  
DAGGETT  
COTE

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-453  
H-624    DAGGETT  
S-388    ESTES

**SUMMARY**

This resolve established the Commission to Study the Feasibility of a Capital Cultural Center. The commission was required to hold its first meeting by July 15, 1991 and to report its findings to the Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-453) made changes in Commission membership, its first meeting date, commission member reimbursement, staff assistance and other areas.

House Amendment "A" (H-624) clarified that the mayor of Augusta appoints the city council member of the commission.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-388) removed the authority of the Commission to automatically submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature.

**LD 1714      An Act to Protect the Rights of Parents and Guardians**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
GRAY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have created the Maine Parental Rights Act, which:

1. Required a public school to receive the consent of the parent or guardian of a pupil under 18 years of age before the pupil may be given personality tests;
2. Permitted parents and residents of school administrative districts to inspect instructional materials;
3. Specified basic evaluations that must be contained in pupil records;
4. Permitted a parent access to and the ability to correct a pupil's record;

5. Established the confidentiality of pupil records except in limited circumstances; and
6. Established a criminal penalty for knowing violation of the Act.

**LD 1745      An Act Concerning the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program**

**PUBLIC 573**

SPONSOR(S) AULT BUTLAND HANDY	COMMITTEE REPORT OTP-AM	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED H-444
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**SUMMARY**

The original bill required the Finance Authority of Maine to allocate at least 5% of Maine Student Incentive Scholarship funds to part-time students with a priority for students who have successfully completed a general educational development examination or its equivalent.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-444) replaced the original bill. The amendment authorized allocation of up to, rather than at least, 5% of Maine Student Incentive Scholarship funds to part-time students, authorized the Finance Authority of Maine to determine eligibility criteria by rule and eliminated the preference for students who have completed a general educational development examination. It also removed the emergency preamble and emergency clause and added a fiscal note.

**LD 1759      An Act to Amend the Law Concerning the Cost-sharing Formula for School Administrative Districts**

**PUBLIC 379**

SPONSOR(S) MARSANO BRAWN NASH BARTH	COMMITTEE REPORT OTP-AM	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED H-445
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**SUMMARY**

The original bill provided an alternate plan for sharing the costs of operating a school administrative district. The plan would be initiated by a vote of the school board and approved by district referendum.

The bill changed the law relating to the amendment of cost-sharing formulas by changing the petitioning requirements necessary for a meeting of municipal representatives to be held and the number of representatives to which a member municipality is entitled.

The bill also allowed a school board to initiate a district referendum to initiate a change in the method of sharing costs among member municipalities and repealed and reenacted the provision allowing a school board to initiate a district referendum to approve a change in the method of sharing costs to solve a numbering problem.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-445) changed the law relating to methods of sharing education costs between municipalities in a school administrative district. Under current law the board of directors of a school administrative district may hold a meeting of municipal representatives to reconsider the method of cost sharing between municipalities only if requested by written petition of at least 10% of the number of voters voting in the last gubernatorial election in the municipalities within the district. This amendment permitted the board of directors of a school administrative district to hold a meeting of municipal representatives to reconsider cost sharing if a majority of the full board of directors approves such a meeting.