

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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**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.

At least 90% of the loan fund is available for loans to students of allopathic and osteopathic medicine. Up to 10% of the loan fund is available to students of optometry, dentistry and veterinary medicine.

The bill includes forgiveness provisions for any primary health care physician or dentist practicing in an area determined by the Department of Human Services to require additional medical professionals; any veterinarian who practices in an area determined by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to require additional practitioners of veterinary medicine; and any doctor who completes a family practice residency in the State.

A nonlapsing revolving fund is established. A portion of annual loan repayments may be used to recruit primary health care physicians to areas of the State lacking sufficient numbers of primary health care physicians.

The bill requires the authority to prepare and circulate a request for proposals for institutions of medical education to participate in the Access to Medical Education Program to encourage program participants to establish primary health care practices in the State.

The bill repeals the provision in the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program giving priority to full-time students. This clarifies a discrepancy with legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 115th Legislature that allows an allocation of the fund for awards to part-time students.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1167) replaces the definition of "Maine resident," adds a definition of "underserved specialty" and makes several modifications to the loan agreement provisions of the Health Professions Loan Program established in the bill and includes a requirement that loan recipients establish proof of reasonable service to Medicaid patients, Medicare patients and public health clinics as a condition of loan forgiveness or interest rate reduction. The amendment adds a representative of a major teaching hospital in the State to the Advisory Committee on Medical Education. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 2409 **An Act to Improve Educational Public Broadcasting Statewide**

**PUBLIC 848
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)

BRANNIGAN
FOSTER
CROWLEY
NORTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-1200 CROWLEY
H-1290 HANDY
S-666

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the University of Maine System to transfer the assets of the Maine Public Broadcasting Network to a nonprofit, nonstock private corporation to unify its operations' with those of the Colby-Bates-Bowdoin Educational Telecasting Corporation into a statewide noncommercial public broadcasting network. A reversionary interest is retained by the University of Maine System. The bill further provides that it is the intent of the State to fund the delivery of public broadcast services statewide.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-666) clarifies that the University of Maine System may transfer the assets of the Maine Public Broadcasting Network, or MPBN, to the transferee corporation only if the corporation has a board of trustees that includes between 8 and 12 public trustees elected by the board in the manner prescribed in the corporation's bylaws.

The amendment requires the transferee corporation to offer one-year individual employment contracts at fiscal year 1991-92 salary levels to MPBN employees who were employed on March 1, 1992 and who are employed on June 30, 1992. It guarantees that, unless employees in that group voluntarily leave their

employment or are terminated for cause, the transferee corporation shall pay the balance of the employee's annual salary for fiscal year 1992-93 if the employee is laid off. It also guarantees that, the transferee corporation will offer that group of employees a benefit package equal to at least 20% of the group's annual salaries and wages.

The amendment requires that, for fiscal year 1992-93, the transferee corporation shall offer vacant positions within an employee's job classification to MPBN employees who lose their jobs between March 1, 1992 and June 30, 1992 unless they have left their position voluntarily or been terminated for cause.

The amendment also adds an appropriation section that provides \$80,258 as a portion of the state match needed to build a radio transmitter to serve the St. John Valley and adds a fiscal note.

House Amendment "A" (H-1200) clarifies that the president of the transferee corporation is a nonvoting member of the board.

House Amendment "F" (H-1290) makes the transferee corporation subject to freedom of access laws.

**LD 2435 An Act to Eliminate the Position and Office of the
Chancellor of the University of Maine System**

INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)

LEBOWITZ
BAILEY H

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have eliminated the position and office of the Chancellor of the University of Maine System. To accomplish this, the bill:

1. Would have removed the chancellor from the list of ex officio corporators of the Board of Directors of the Maine Development Foundation;
2. Would have repealed the provision requiring the chancellor to present an address on the state of the University of Maine System to the Legislature;
3. Would have repealed the provision establishing a committee, appointed by the chancellor, whose reporting and implementation dates have passed;
4. Would have replaced the chancellor with a member representing the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System on the New England Board of Higher Education;
5. Would have removed a reference to the chancellor in the laws concerning University of Maine System labor relations;
6. Would have required the board of trustees rather than the chancellor to appoint a member to the State Board of Substance Abuse Counselors and a member to the Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure; and
7. Would have amended the charter of the University of Maine System to remove all references to and authority of the chancellor and to establish a council made up of the heads of each campus to oversee certain systemwide functions.