

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION

MAY 1994

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

MAY 1994

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number, 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

P&S XXX

RESOLVE XXX

CON RES XXX

EMERGENCY

ONTP

INDEF PP

FAILED ENACTMENT

FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT

FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE

VETO SUSTAINED

UNSIGNED

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Chapter # of enacted Public Law

Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law

Chapter # of enacted Resolve

Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses

Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days

Ought Not to Pass report accepted

Bill Indefinitely Postponed

Bill failed to get majority vote

Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote

Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote

House & Senate disagree; bill died

Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died

Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Not signed by Governor within 10 days

Action incomplete when session ended; bill died

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If you have any suggestions or comments on the summaries, please let us know.

5581LHS

SPONSOR(S)
AMERO

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This resolve directed the Department of Education to review and analyze proposals for changing the school funding formula included in a document entitled the School Finance Act of 1994. The resolve required that the department solicit written comments on the proposed changes from interested groups and individuals and requires that the State Board of Education hold public hearings on the amendment. The department would have been required to report its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 1995.

The resolve also would have established a subcommittee to review, analyze and, if necessary, make recommendations for changes in the current tax structure for funding public schools. The subcommittee would have consisted of 10 members, 5 from the Joint Standing Committee on Education and 5 from the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. The subcommittee would have been required to submit its findings to the Legislature by January 15, 1995.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1078) directed the Department of Education to review and analyze proposals for changing the school funding formula included in a document entitled the School Finance Act of 1994. The resolve required that the department solicit written comments on the proposed changes from interested groups and individuals and requires that the State Board of Education hold public hearings on the amendment. The department was required to report its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 1995. The resolve also established a subcommittee to review, analyze and, if necessary, make recommendations for changes in the current tax structure for funding public schools. The subcommittee would have consisted of 10 members, 5 from the Joint Standing Committee on Education and 5 from the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. The subcommittee would have been required to submit its findings to the Legislature by January 15, 1995.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1083) directed a subcommittee consisting of members of the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and taxation matters to review, analyze and, if warranted, make recommendations for changes in the current tax structure for funding public schools.

This amendment added 2 new duties to the subcommittee:

1. Review and analyze alternatives to reliance upon the property tax to fund what is now referred to as the required local share of education costs; and
2. Identify the implications of repealing the property tax as the revenue source for funding the local share of the total allocation for education beginning in fiscal year 1996-97.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-590) provided funds for the per diem and expenses of the members of a subcommittee of Legislators authorized to review and report on taxation issues related to funding public schools and for miscellaneous subcommittee expenses.

A portion of the duties outlined in this bill have been shifted to the 5-member committee created in LD 924. See LD 924 for details.