

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**JUNE 1996**

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*Sen. I. Joel Abromson*

*Sen. Donald E. Esty, Jr.*

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**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

***Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees  
June 1996***

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

the residential program, parent-infant program, preschool program and the communication garden program.

4. Increase the membership of the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf from 11 to 13 voting members.
5. Require that the Governor give proper consideration to statewide geographical representation, cultural equity and gender equity in appointing members to the school board.
6. Require 8 affirmative votes by the school board to approve the annual budget of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.
7. Require the Department of Education to provide administrative assistance to the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf until July 1, 1999.
8. Clarify that the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf must annually submit the school budget to the Commissioner of Education for review and inclusion in the department's budget. The budget is subject to the normal budget review process conducted by the Governor and the State Budget Officer.
9. Relieve the Department of Education of liability for operation of the school by the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.
10. Clarify that the employees of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf remain employees of the State.
11. Require that the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs matters establish a committee to review the new governance structure of the school.
12. Clarify that the new governance structure for the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf must be implemented on January 1, 1997, except that the Governor must appoint members to the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf by September 1, 1996

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 676 reduces the role of the Department of Education to providing technical support to the Baxter School for the Deaf and establishes a school board, selected by the Governor, to oversee operations of the school.

**LD 827**

**An Act to Provide for Record Checks of Elementary and Secondary Education Employees and Applicants**

PUBLIC 547

Sponsor(s)  
O'NEAL

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-724

LD 827, carried over from the 1st session, authorized the Commissioner of Education and state school superintendents to conduct record checks of criminal and investigative information on applicants for employment, certification or recertification in positions that are directly or indirectly in contact with children.

