

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

AUGUST 1995

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION BEFORE  
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

**AUGUST 1995**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing 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 publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, is helpful in determining to which committee any particular bill was referred.

In this document, 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 categories of final action are abbreviated 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 enacted 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>               |

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If more detailed information is needed on a bill, contact the committee analyst.

5581LHS

**LD 878**      **Resolve, to Develop a Voluntary Firearm Safety Program for Use in Schools in the State**      ONTP

|                               |                                 |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b><br>MORRISON | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b><br>ONTP | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

**SUMMARY**

This resolve directs the State Board of Education to review the necessity for and advisability of adopting and making available a voluntary firearm safety program for use in public schools with assistance from a national gun group such as the National Rifle Association.

**LD 879**      **An Act Concerning a Moment of Silence in Maine Public Schools**      **DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

|                              |  |                           |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b><br>POULIOT | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b><br>ONTP      MAJ<br>OTP      MIN | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|

**SUMMARY**

Current law permits school boards to require a period of silence in the public schools. This bill directs school boards to require this special observance and changes the term from "period of silence" to "moment of silence."

**LD 880**      **An Act Concerning Referendum Reform for School Budgets**      **CARRIED OVER**

|                                     |                         |                           |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b><br>REED W<br>HALL | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires that, if an article or several articles of a school district budget fail to pass in an initial referendum, a maximum of 2 subsequent referenda may be held to establish the budget. If no budget has been passed after the 3rd referendum, the previous year's operating budget becomes the approved budget.

**LD 881**      **An Act to Amend the Education Funding Formula**      **PUBLIC 427**

|                              |                                   |                                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b><br>BRENNAN | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b><br>OTP-AM | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b><br>H-452 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

**SUMMARY**

This bill permits a school administrative unit to receive Medicaid funds for the provision of health and human services to students without a subsequent reduction in general purpose aid by the State provided that the school administrative unit expends at least 70% of the savings from the receipt of Medicaid funds on health and human services for students. The bill also provides for a General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 to the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school administrative units seeking Medicaid reimbursement.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-452) replaces the bill. The amendment makes the following changes:

1. Removes the appropriation to the Department of Education for providing technical assistance to school units;

2. Removes the requirement that 70% of any savings from Medicaid funds be used to provide health and human services;
3. Makes technical changes to the bill; and
4. Adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 894      An Act to Provide Funding for Homeless Students      ONTP**

|                             |                                 |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b><br>BEGLEY | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b><br>ONTP | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the State to provide funding for a homeless student's education costs and establishes the reimbursement rate as the tuition rate at the school as prorated by the amount of time in attendance for each student. This bill also directs the Department of Education to establish a nonlapsing, interest-earning revolving fund to finance homeless students' education costs. Funding must be accomplished by reducing the state share of the total allocation for operating costs statewide and increasing the local share of the total allocation for operating costs statewide by an amount equal to the cost of educating all Maine homeless students.

**LD 896      Resolve, to Revise the Reporting Date of the Home School Study Committee      RESOLVE 9**

|                            |                                   |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b><br>SMALL | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b><br>OTP-AM | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b><br>S-83 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

**SUMMARY**

This resolve retroactively extends the reporting date of the Home School Study Committee to November 15, 1995.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-83) adds a fiscal note to the resolve.

**LD 898      An Act to Amend the Procedures for Conducting a School District Referendum      PUBLIC 168**

|                             |                                |                           |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b><br>HANLEY | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b><br>OTP | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|

**SUMMARY**

This bill provides that when a school administrative district referendum vote is held in conjunction with a statewide primary election any registered voter may vote in the referendum election, not just those enrolled in a political party.

**LD 902      An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Committee to Study Organizational and Tax Issues in Public Schools      ONTP**

|                            |                                 |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b><br>AMERO | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b><br>ONTP | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|