

# 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

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> BEGLEY	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> ONTP	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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**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> SMALL	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> OTP-AM	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> S-83
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**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> HANLEY	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> OTP	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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**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> AMERO	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> ONTP	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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**SUMMARY**

This bill implements the school finance recommendations of the Committee to Study Organizational and Tax Issues in Public Schools. The bill accomplishes the following.

1. The bill amends the School Finance Act of 1985 by adding median community income and regional costs to the calculation of each school administrative unit's ability to fund public education in kindergarten and grades one to 12.
2. The bill directs municipal assessors to annually provide to the Bureau of Taxation information on the class of each property in the municipality, whether the property is owned by a corporation or an individual, whether property owners are residents of Maine and whether a residence is a primary or secondary residence.
3. The bill permits claimants under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program to claim the credit on their state income tax return and receive a refund of the difference between income tax liability and the property tax credit.
4. The bill changes the deadline for filing under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program to April 15th so that it coincides with the deadline for filing state income tax returns.
5. The bill changes the benefit calculation for Maine residents under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program.
6. The bill directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a task force to study and report back to the commissioner by October 1, 1996 on issues related to tuition costs to school administrative units for students who attend schools outside their home district.
7. The bill directs the Commissioner of Education to review issues related to subsidizing operating and program costs incurred by school administrative units. The commissioner is required to consult with the State Board of Education, education officials, municipal officials and others before reporting to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 1, 1996.

Elements of this bill were included in the budget bill (LD 706).

<b>LD 905</b>	<b>An Act to Require Reimbursement to School Units for the Purchase of School Buses at the Time of Purchase</b>	ONTP
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<b>SPONSOR(S)</b> BUSTIN	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> ONTP	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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**SUMMARY**

This bill provides school administrative units with state subsidy for the purchase of a school bus in the year in which the bus is purchased. Current law provides state subsidy in the year following the year of purchase.

<b>LD 908</b>	<b>An Act to Require the Department of Human Services to Consider the Effect on a School System before Placing a Child in Foster Care</b>	ONTP
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<b>SPONSOR(S)</b> MICHAUD	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> ONTP	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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