

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

Staff:

Michael D. Higgins, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

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**Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

State House Station 13, Augusta, Maine 04333
Telephone (207) 287-1670
Telecopier (207) 287-1275

**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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & 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

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).

LD 905	An Act to Require Reimbursement to School Units for the Purchase of School Buses at the Time of Purchase	ONTP
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SPONSOR(S) BUSTIN	COMMITTEE REPORT ONTP	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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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.

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

This bill requires that the educational impact on the local school district be a consideration when determining the most appropriate placement for a child in foster care.

LD 943 An Act to Create an Honorary Position of Maine State Poet Laureate

PUBLIC 264

SPONSOR(S)
ADAMS

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-350

SUMMARY

This bill creates the honorary office of State Poet Laureate and describes the appointment process and the duties of the State Poet Laureate. As this is an honorary position, the holder of the office is permitted to seek, accept or serve as an elected or appointed state or local government employee while serving as State Poet Laureate.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-350) changes the membership of the State Poet Laureate Selection Advisory Panel by eliminating from the panel the chairs of the English departments of each of the campuses of the University of Maine System and replacing them with one representative of the University of Maine System, one representative of private universities and colleges and one representative of public school English teachers. This amendment adds a provision requiring each panel member to survey the colleagues the member represents for the names of candidates to be considered by the full panel for recommendation to the Governor. This amendment also makes technical changes to the bill and adds a fiscal note.

LD 958 An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper

PUBLIC 395

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The Part II Budget bill is an Appropriations Committee bill and includes the following education issues:

- 1. Education Coordinating Committee
- 2. Education Research Institute
- 3. Commission on Higher Education Governance (see summary of LD 481)

LD 964 An Act Establishing Education as a Priority for the State by Expediting Consideration of the Education Budget

PUBLIC 98

SPONSOR(S)
LIBBY JD

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill changes the date by which the Legislature must enact the annual school finance budget from April 1st to March 15th.