

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 & 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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-225) clarifies that a waiver granted to an individual who receives allegedly inaccurate, incomplete or untimely information must be for a period of time sufficient to allow the individual to complete certification requirements. This amendment also identifies alternative methods by which an individual may demonstrate compliance with certification requirements and requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to further develop those methods.

LD 983 An Act to Authorize the Towns of Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland to Form a Community School District

P & S 13
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLEVELAND STEVENS A AIKMAN	OTP-AM	S-61

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the formation of a community school district for grades 7 to 12 for the towns of Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland. This bill modifies community school district laws to meet the special needs and history in these towns. The community school district will not be created unless it is approved in a referendum vote by the majority of the voters voting at least 2 of the towns.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-61) makes several technical changes to the bill. This amendment repeals a provision permitting the 3 towns to include costs for books and other materials in their debt service and replaces it with a provision permitting the towns to borrow the funds from the Department of Education's general purpose aid to local schools program and repay the loan, free of interest, over a 5-year period. This amendment changes the date of the referendum from May 3, 1995 to May 6, 1995 and permits the Town of Minot to hold the referendum on that date irrespective of municipal election requirements that might require a later date.

NOTE: The effort to form a 3 town CSD failed at referendum. See LD 1581 for additional information.

LD 990 An Act to Encourage the Retention and Expansion of Existing Schools within Communities

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PINGREE	ONTP	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the State Board of Education from disallowing expansion of existing school facilities based upon a minimum lot size requirement.

LD 996 An Act to Prevent the Loss of Federal Impact Aid Funds to Schools Required to Reimburse under Federal Law

PUBLIC 303

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
O'NEAL	OTP-AM	H-397

SUMMARY

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the United States Department of Education from compelling federally impacted school units in the State to pay back federal funds they received for fiscal year 1992-93 under Public Law 81-874.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-397) adds a provision to the bill that restores \$1,877,937.42 in federal impact aid funds to school units in fiscal year 1995-96. No new dollars will be needed because the fiscal year 1994-95 ending balance in the general purpose subsidy account for public schools is expected to be sufficient to make these payments. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1011 Resolve, to Direct the Department of Education to Reduce
the Number of Superintendents in the State to 25** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
AULT	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Education to develop a plan that will reduce the number of superintendents in the State to 25. The plan must be implemented by January 1, 1997.

**LD 1019 An Act Concerning Officiating at High School Athletic
Competitions** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
AHEARNE	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits certain school and community employees, administrators or officials or relatives of players from officiating at interscholastic high school athletic competitions on penalty of forfeiture of the athletic event to the opposing team and a 2-year suspension of the offending official.

**LD 1020 An Act Pertaining to Cost Sharing of Central Office
Expenses among Administrative Units in a School Union** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
AULT	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill requires that costs of a school union superintendent and central office be apportioned to the school administrative units in the school union in proportion to the number of students in each school administrative unit.

**LD 1021 An Act Authorizing the State Board of Education to Adopt
Rules Regarding Certain Early Childhood Personnel** PUBLIC 207

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
AULT	OTP-AM	H-284

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding the certification and authorization of early childhood personnel who provide educational programs, developmental therapy and special instruction to children with disabilities.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-284) makes technical changes to the bill and adds a fiscal note.