

# 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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-398) This amendment directs the Department of Education to include in its report recommendations concerning special education due process, strategies for identifying students with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders, and programs to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. The amendment also adds a fiscal note.

**LD 1495     An Act to Establish the Comprehensive School Choice Program in the State** ONTP

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b> HARRIMAN	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> ONTP	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the Comprehensive School Choice Program by phasing in over 5 years a system of vouchers for students who will attend alternative education programs. The bill creates the Comprehensive School Choice Office within the Department of Education to administer the program assisted by the School Choice Advisory Council. The office administers the program, provides technical assistance and referral, and reports on the program to the Governor and the Legislature.

**LD 1535     An Act Regarding School Construction in School Administrative District No. 49** P & S 32  
EMERGENCY

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b> GWADOSKY	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> OTP-AM	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> H-399
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**SUMMARY**

This bill allows the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 49 to enter into a design-build contract or other alternative construction for the construction of a new auditorium and supporting facilities without approval by the Commissioner of Education.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-399) clarifies that only one referendum vote will be required in connection with the proposed construction project, replaces the question in the bill with a more specific question and provides for informational disclosures to accompany the question.

**LD 1560     Resolve, to Reduce Reliance on the Property Tax for School Funding** CARRIED OVER

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b> MITCHELL EH	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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**SUMMARY**

This resolve requires the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to work together to establish a plan to promote regionalization and cost sharing among Maine schools. Minimum criteria are enumerated.

**LD 1576     Resolve, to Require the Brookton Elementary School to be used as a Community Center for Northern Washington** RESOLVE 56

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b> BUNKER CASSIDY	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> H-559 S-321	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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**SUMMARY**

This resolve authorizes the Superintendent of the Education, Unorganized Territory in Brookton to transfer the building known as the Brookton Elementary School to the Brookton-Forest City Community Center, Inc.

**LD 1581**     **Resolve, to Establish an Education Plan for the Towns of  
Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland**

RESOLVE 55  
EMERGENCY

**SPONSOR(S)**  
UNDERWOOD

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-655

**SUMMARY**

This bill permits the Town of Minot and the Town of Poland to vote again to join a 2-town or 3-town community school district with the Town of Mechanic Falls.