

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

JUNE 1996

MEMBERS:

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Sen. I. Joel Abromson

Sen. Donald E. Esty, Jr.

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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



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

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
June 1996**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are 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 finally passed 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>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

provisions were included in the 1996-1997 supplemental budget, L.D. 1759. The amendment also transferred appointing authority for 2 members of the study group to review and make recommendations on school construction issues from the cochairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 632 establishes the statewide debt service limit for approved school construction projects for 1999 at \$69 million and for 2000 at \$70 million. It also requires school units who receive state funds for construction projects to establish a facility maintenance plan and requires the Department of Education to conduct a school facilities inventory.

LD 1560 **Resolve, to Reduce Reliance on the Property Tax for School Funding** INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MITCHELL EH	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1560 required 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.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-861) created a 17-member study commission to investigate alternative methods of financing public education and different methods of reducing reliance on property taxes to fund education. The commission would have submitted its report and any accompanying legislation to the First Regular Session of the 118th Legislature. The amendment also added an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the resolve. (Adopted in House and Senate but died on the Appropriations Table)

LD 1614 **An Act to Amend the Law as It Pertains to Payment of Rent by a Blind or Visually Impaired Individual Who Operates a Vending Facility** PUBLIC 563

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-744 S-435
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LD 1614 allowed municipalities to charge limited rental fees for a vending facility operated by a person licensed by the Department of Education, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired if the facility is in a public airport or other public location where certain commercial competitive criteria are met.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-435) made technical changes to the bill and clarified that current operators of vending facilities who are blind or visually impaired and licensed by the Department of Education, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired are exempt from any requirement to pay a rental fee until their current rental agreement expires.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-744) was offered on behalf of the Committee on Engrossed Bills to clarify the application of the committee amendment.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 563 permits municipalities to charge rental fees to the operator of a vending facility licensed by the Department of Education, Division of the Blind if the facility is in a public location where commercial competitive criteria are normally met.

LD 1627 An Act to Change the Name of the Maine Youth Apprenticeship Program to the Maine Career Advantage PUBLIC 515

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GWADOSKY	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1627 proposed to change the name of the Maine Youth Apprenticeship Program to the Maine Career Advantage and make necessary reference changes in the Maine Revised Statutes.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 515 changes the name of the Maine Youth Apprenticeship Program to Maine Career Advantage.

LD 1640 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Apportionment of Costs of the Mount Desert Island Regional School District among Member Towns P & S 54

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOLDTHWAIT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-422
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LD 1640 proposed to provide that 67% of the costs of the Mount Desert Island Regional School District must be apportioned among member towns on the basis of fiscal capacity calculated as a 3-year average of each town's state valuation.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-422) added a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 54 requires that 67% of the costs of the Mount Desert Island Regional School District must be apportioned among member towns on the basis of fiscal capacity calculated as a 3-year average of each town's state valuation.

LD 1642 An Act to Extend Waivers of Certain Provisions of the Education Laws PUBLIC 527

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SMALL MARTIN	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-433
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