

# 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.*

*Rep. Wendy L. Ault, Chair*

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**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 &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 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.

Due to State and local budgetary hardships, school administrative units have been exempt for several years from meeting State requirements in the areas of student-teacher ratios, school approval, school accreditation, implementation of gifted and talented and guidance and counseling programs. The waiver of these State requirements expires at the beginning of the school year in the fall of 1996. LD 1642 proposed to extend the waiver of these requirements to the 1999-2000 school year.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-433)** proposed limiting the extension of waivers now in effect for student-teacher ratios, school approval, school accreditation, implementation of gifted and talented and guidance and counseling programs to the 1997-1998 school year.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 527 limits the extension of waivers now in effect for student-teacher ratios, school approval, school accreditation, implementation of gifted and talented and guidance and counseling programs to the 1997-98 school year.

**LD 1660**      **Resolve, to Review the Role of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in Approving School Construction Projects for School Administrative Units**

RE

Sponsor(s)  
NASS

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-786

LD 1660 proposed increasing the threshold amount of school administrative projects to \$300,000 before approval is required from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services through the Bureau of General Services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-786)** replaced the bill with a requirement that the Commissioner of Education convene a study group, at no cost to the State, to review and make recommendations for improving the current role of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services in approving school construction projects. The group must present its report and any recommended legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by December 15, 1996. The amendment replaces the title to reflect the changes made in the amendment.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1995, chapter 75 requires the Commissioner of Education to convene a study group to review and make recommendations for improving the current role of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services in approving school construction projects.

**LD 1678**      **Resolve, to Authorize the Maine Technical College System to Transfer Interests in Real Property**

RESOLVE 60

Sponsor(s)  
GWADOSKY

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-710