

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

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Sen. I. Joel Abromson

Sen. Donald E. Esty, Jr.

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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 & 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.

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

LD 1678 proposed permitting the Southern Maine Technical College to sell a parcel of land. The resolve also permitted the Central Maine Technical college to give a conservation easement along Lake Auburn to the Lake Auburn Watershed Association in exchange for the Central Maine Technical college receiving property adjacent to the Central Maine Technical College.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-710) changed the headnote of section 1 to more accurately reflect the contents of that section.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1995, chapter 60 permits Southern Maine Technical College to sell a parcel of land and permits Central Maine Technical college to give a conservation easement along Lake Auburn to the Lake Auburn Watershed Association in exchange for the Central Maine Technical college receiving property adjacent to the Central Maine Technical College.

LD 1705 An Act to Establish Educational Services for Grades 7 to 12 P & S 53
in the Towns of Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-686

LD 1705 represented the findings of the committee established by Resolve 1995, chapter 55 to develop a plan for providing education services to the students of the towns of Poland, Mechanic Falls and Minot.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-686) replaced a provision in the bill that required the Department of Education to provide an interest-free loan to the Towns of Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland for the purchase of books, software and other items for a new high school to serve the 3 towns. The amendment permitted the 3 towns to issue bonds to cover the cost of those items.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 53 permits the town of Poland to build a new high school to serve the students of Poland, Minot and Mechanic Falls. The school construction project is guaranteed State subsidy for funding a portion of the project.

LD 1718 An Act to Repeal and Replace the Charter of Bowdoin College P & S 67
EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HARRIMAN DAVIDSON	OTP-AM	S-480

LD 1718 proposed repealing and replacing the Charter of Bowdoin College and replacing its bicameral governance structure, consisting of a Board of Trustees and a Board of Overseers, with a unicameral governance structure, consisting of a Board of Trustees. The bill also proposed modernizing the Charter, granted in 1794, by deleting a number of now anomolous references, including lists by name of original board members.