

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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**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.

A \$2,000,000 appropriation is provided for professional development for the 1996-97 school year and requires future annual appropriations of at least \$2,000,000 for professional development. Failure of the Legislature to appropriate funds for professional development in any year will result in suspension of the system of learning results.

The department must use the Maine Education Assessment (MEA) to measure student and school performance in achieving the learning standards. Students do not have to pass the MEA or achieve a minimum score to complete any grade or graduate from high school. The state board and the department must review and make recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 1997 on linking achievement of the learning results to completion of high school. School administrative units are encouraged to develop additional local assessments to measure student achievement, including student portfolios, performances, demonstrations and other records of achievements.

The department, in consultation with the state board, must develop a plan to assist school administrative units in helping all students achieve the learning results. The department is also required to develop a plan for providing intensive assistance to school administrative units experiencing difficulty meeting the learning results.

Only public school students and students attending private schools approved for educating public school students are required to meet the learning results. Home-schooled students and students attending religious schools are exempt from the provisions of the bill. The commissioner must develop accommodations for students requiring special education services and for students when course content conflicts with religious beliefs.

LD 1800

Resolve, to Recognize the Maine School for the Arts and the Maine High School for the Arts

RESOLVE 79

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUMBRA	OTP-AM MAJ	H-794
PARADIS	ONTP MIN	

LD 1800 recognized the existence of the Maine School for the Arts, also known as the Maine High School for the Arts

Committee Amendment "A" (H-794) removed the emergency preamble and emergency clause, made technical changes to the resolve, corrected the name of the Maine School for the Arts/Maine High School for the Arts and placed standard restrictions on protection of the school's name as required by state law.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1995, chapter 79 recognizes the existence of the Maine School for the Arts / Maine High School for the Arts.