

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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**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.

LD 1818**An Act to Require that Public Schools Permit Participation in Curricular, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities for Students Enrolled in Approved Equivalent Instruction Programs**

PUBLIC 610

Sponsor(s)Committee Report
OTP-AMAmendments Adopted
H-871

LD 1818 established uniform standards for participation by students receiving home instruction in curricular, cocurricular and extracurricular activities and special education services and for the use of the books, equipment and facilities of the public schools those students may otherwise attend. The bill also established standards for readmission to and graduation from the high school a student receiving home instruction may attend.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-871) made a number of technical changes to the bill and clarified responsibilities of students, parents and school administrative units concerning access to public schools by home-schooled students. The amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 610 establishes statewide standards for schools to follow in permitting access to public schools by home-schooled students.

LD 1866**An Act to Improve the Child Development Services System**

PUBLIC 662

Sponsor(s)Committee Report
OTP-AM MAJ
ONTP MINAmendments Adopted
S-534

LD 1866 proposed the following changes to the Child Development Services System or "CDS."

1. Required the Commissioner of Education to establish a committee to review and report back to the next Legislature on the provision of mandated services within the Child Development Services System. If services exceed minimum federal requirements, the commissioner must recommend changes to limit services to the minimum required by federal law.
2. Required the Commissioner of Education, with assistance from the Child Development Services System advisory board, to establish a method to determine the cost of employing professional therapists as CDS site staff and report those recommendations to the next Legislature.
3. Under current law, the Interdepartmental Coordinating Council for Early Intervention is established as an advisory body to the Commissioner of Education. This bill also required the council to advise the Legislature on the status of the Child Development Services System.