

# 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*

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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.

**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-AM

Amendments 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        MIN

Amendments 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.

4. Required the Interdepartmental Coordinating Council for Early Intervention to review and make recommendations to the next Legislature to improve quality and consistency in the Child Development Services System.
5. Permitted the board of directors of a CDS regional site to hire one or more professional therapists as site employees if the therapists are needed to perform child evaluations, if the therapists can perform services at a substantial savings to the Child Development Services System or if contract therapists are unable to provide required services within federal timelines.
6. Limited membership on regional boards governing the Child Development Services System to members who derive no revenue from work performed for the system.
7. Established service provider advisory boards to each regional site board of directors.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-534)** makes a technical change and adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-886)** removes language added by the bill that grants authority to the board of directors of a Child Development Services System regional site to hire one or more professional therapists as site employees if certain conditions are met. The amendment retains the current provision of law that permits a local board of directors to employ qualified professional and other staff at the local site. (Not adopted)

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 662 requires the Commissioner of Education to review the provision of services within in the CDS system to ensure services do not exceed minimal federal standards. It also limits membership on regional boards governing the CDS system to members that derive no revenue from work performed for CDS.

**LD 1870      An Act to Authorize Casco Bay College to Grant Degrees**

P & S 72

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report  
OTP

Amendments Adopted

Casco Bay College is currently limited to offering Associate of Science degrees in several specific subject areas. LD 1870 proposed expanding Casco Bay College's authority to grant degrees by permitting the college to grant Associate of Science degrees in whatever subject area its directors may prescribe. The bill also acknowledged the change in the name of the school, which occurred in 1974, from Plus Gray's School of Business to Casco Bay College.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 72 expands Casco Bay College's authority to grant degrees by permitting the college to grant Associate of Science degrees in whatever subject area it wishes.