

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**JULY 1997**

***MEMBERS:***

***Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton, Chair***

***Sen. Mary R. Cathcart***

***Sen. Mary E. Small***

***Rep. Shirley K. Richard, Chair***

***Rep. Michael F. Brennan***

***Rep. Mabel J. Desmond***

***Rep. James G. Skoglund***

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***Rep. Rodney W. McElroy***

***Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman***

***Rep. Irvin G. Belanger***

***Staff:***

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**Maine State Legislature**

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees  
August 1997**

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. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

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:

- CARRIED OVER*.....*Bill carried over to Second Regular Session*
- CON RES XXX*.....*Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses*
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....*Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died*
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....*House & Senate disagree; bill died*
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....*One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill*
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....*Action incomplete when session ended; bill died*
- EMERGENCY*.....*Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days*
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote*
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Bill failed to get majority vote*
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....*Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote*
- INDEF PP*.....*Bill Indefinitely Postponed*
- ONTP*.....*Ought Not To Pass report accepted*
- OTP ND*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft*
- OTP ND/NT*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title*
- P&S XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law*
- PUBLIC XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Public Law*
- RESOLVE XXX*.....*Chapter # of finally passed Resolve*
- UNSIGNED*.....*Bill held by Governor*
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....*Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto*

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

*David E. Boulter, Director*

Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

3. Repealed the provision establishing a committee, appointed by the chancellor, whose reporting and implementation dates have passed;
4. Replaced the chancellor with a member representing the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System on the New England Board of Higher Education;
5. Removed a reference to the chancellor in the laws concerning University of Maine System labor relations;
6. Required the board of trustees rather than the chancellor to appoint a member to the State Board of Substance Abuse Counselors and a member to the Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure; and
7. Amended the charter of the University of Maine System to remove all references to and authority of the chancellor and proposed to provide for one president for the combined campuses, with one vice-president appointed for each campus.

**LD 90**

**Resolve, to Require the Department of Education to Study and Make Recommendations to Alleviate Sexual Harassment in Schools**

**ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| POVICH            | ONTP                    |                           |

LD 90 proposed to require the Department of Education to study the problem of sexual harassment in Maine schools and report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature.

**LD 98**

**An Act Regarding Balances Remaining in General Purpose Aid for Local Schools**

**INDEF PP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BRENNAN<br>SMALL  | OTP-AM                  | H-424                     |

LD 98 proposed to require that when unexpended year-end balances from appropriations to general purpose aid for local schools exceed \$1,000,000, the Commissioner of Education must propose rules that distribute these balances back to schools.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-424)** proposed to specify that unobligated general purpose aid balances may not lapse, but must be redistributed during the same fiscal year. Seventy-five percent of unobligated balances must be applied to program costs and 25% to out-of-district placement. The 75% portion to be applied to the state share of program costs must be determined by recalculating the original reduction percentage calculation. While this amendment was not adopted, the substance of this amendment was enacted as part of the supplemental appropriations bill (see Public Law 1997, chapter 395, part R).