

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

Rep. Elizabeth Watson

Rep. Christina L. Baker

Rep. Alvin L. Barth, Jr.

Rep. Rodney W. McElroy

Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman

Rep. Irvin G. Belanger

Staff:

Phillip D. McCarthy, Ed.D., Legislative Analyst

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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).

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

Public Law 1997, chapter 469 provides for an increase in the school construction debt service limit for fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-01 to \$72,000,000 and \$74,000,000, respectively. The law further requires that the state share of the school construction debt service costs, as biennially established by the Legislature, must also be supported by General Fund appropriations beginning in fiscal year 1999-2000.

LD 241 **An Act to Reward Schools for Computer Competency** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MURPHY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 241 proposed to direct the Commissioner of Education to implement a program to reward school units whose students have achieved computer competency.

LD 319 **An Act Regarding Rabies Vaccinations for Animals on School Grounds** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PLOWMAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 319 proposed to require the Commissioner of Education to adopt rules regarding requirements for rabies vaccinations for animals that are brought on the premises of a public school.

LD 320 **An Act to Set the Amount of State Funding for School Building Projects at \$75 a Foot** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PLOWMAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 320 proposed to limit the State's reimbursement for public school construction and renovation projects.

LD 323 **An Act to Assist Smaller School Districts Regarding Hiring Practices** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SAVAGE		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 323 proposed to change the definition of persons considered "full-time employees" for purposes of the prohibition on employment of school board members or their spouses.