

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

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Rep. Michael F. Brennan

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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

LD 685**An Act to Limit Reimbursement for Administrative Expenses Based on the Size of a Local Educational Unit****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
MCELROYCommittee Report
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 685 proposed to require that a school administrator serve more than 3,500 students or more than 20 towns in order for the school unit to be reimbursed for the salaries and related benefits of the administrator.

LD 694**An Act to Repeal the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results System****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
LEMKE
HALLCommittee Report
ONTP MAJ
OTP MINAmendments Adopted

LD 694 proposed to repeal the guiding principles that current law requires the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to use in developing a statewide system of learning results.

LD 697**An Act to Give Municipal Officials Oversight of School Administrative District Budgets****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
PLOWMANCommittee Report
ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MINAmendments Adopted

LD 697 proposed to require that school administrative district budgets receive approval of the municipal officials of the district prior to submitting the budget to the voters of the school district for final approval.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-350) This amendment, the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to replace the bill. It would have used the county budget advisory committee process as a model for allowing school administrative districts to establish a school district budget committee consisting of municipal officers and school board members. The school board would still have prepared a budget for the district, but would then have submitted it to the budget committee. The budget committee would have been responsible for the final budget that was to be submitted to the voters of the school district. This amendment would also have added a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill.