

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

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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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular 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 IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</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/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</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>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</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>Bill held by Governor</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 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 929 **An Act to Amend the School Construction Laws to Allow School Construction Projects That Expand Existing School Facilities beyond 8,000 Square Feet to Be Eligible for State School Construction Subsidies** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FOSTER	ONTP	

LD 929 proposed to direct the State Board of Education to revise the rules and approval criteria for the use of state school construction subsidies. Under this bill, the state board would have been charged with reviewing and adopting school construction approval rules that allow school construction projects that expand existing school facilities beyond 8,000 square feet to be eligible for state school construction subsidies.

LD 947 **An Act to Include Youth in Public Service** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JENKINS VIGUE	ONTP	

LD 947 proposed to involve the youth of the State in public service. The bill would have required school boards and municipal legislative bodies to select secondary school students to serve as nonvoting members on those bodies. The bill further proposed to direct the State Planning Office to review state organizations, including boards and commissions, to determine on which ones it would be appropriate to place student members.

LD 953 **An Act to Ensure That the Technical College System Is More Responsive to the Needs of the State** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WRIGHT LAWRENCE	ONTP	

LD 953 proposed to promote the development and implementation of courses and degrees at the technical colleges that are relevant to Maine's employment needs.

LD 973 **An Act to Allow Towns within a Community School District to Vote on a School Budget by Referendum** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAYTON	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 973 proposed to provide an alternative voting procedure allowing district towns of a community school district to vote on a budget by a district-wide referendum. This procedure would have been similar to the alternative voting procedure currently available to school administrative districts.

LD 1010 An Act Regarding Nonresident School Tuition ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOLDTHWAIT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1010 proposed to extend the insured value factor provision currently in effect for private secondary schools to public secondary schools. When a school administrative unit agrees to accept tuition students from another municipality, the insured value factor enables the receiving school to assess a somewhat higher tuition rate to compensate for their operating costs.

LD 1012 Resolve, to Require the Department of Education to Develop a Framework for the Study of Social Studies in Public Schools ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1012 proposed to direct the Department of Education to create a task force to develop a social studies framework for use by local schools in developing curriculum.

LD 1036 Resolve, to Review the Components of the Operating Costs in the School Finance Formula ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCELROY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1036 proposed to require the Commissioner of Education to review the components of the operating costs in the school funding formula to determine whether the existing operating costs in the school funding formula should continue to be included and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than November 15, 1997.

LD 1045 Resolve, to Create the Task Force on Research and Development Investment CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BIGL		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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