

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:

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Sen. Mary R. Cathcart

Sen. Mary E. Small

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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).

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 1124 **Resolve, Requiring the Department of Education to Replace the Building Code for Schools** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PLOWMAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1124 proposed that the Department of Education be required to replace the building code, known as "BOCA," that currently applies to school buildings with a safe, secure, reliable building code that is a recognized industry standard but would be less expensive to school districts.

LD 1141 **Resolve, Regarding School Construction and Renovation Projects** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> THOMPSON BENNETT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1141 proposed that any school administrative unit already placed on the State Board of Education's protected list for school construction project is not subject to the newly adopted renovation policy.

LD 1144 **An Act Pertaining to Parental Access to School Records** **PUBLIC 415**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LANE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-670
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LD 1144 proposed that a school unit would be required to provide written notification upon request to a parent of all school activities and programs that require or include parental participation, involvement, notification or awareness. It would further have required school units to make available to parents all records relating to their child's education and school activities, including curriculum, standardized tests and results and medical history. The provisions of this bill would not have applied to a parent denied parental rights and responsibilities in a court order.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-670) proposed to replace the original bill and would have provided for notification to a parent of all school activities and programs for which parental notification or involvement may be in the best interest of the student, regardless of whether or not the student resides with the parent. The amendment would retain the exemption in the original bill that does not allow a parent who has been denied parental rights by court order access to school activities and programs.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 415 provides for notification to a parent of all school activities and programs for which parental notification or involvement may be in the best interest of the student, regardless of whether or not the student resides with the parent. The law does not apply to a parent denied parental rights and responsibilities in a court order.