

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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Sen. Mary R. Cathcart

Sen. Mary E. Small

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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 1363

Resolve, that the Department of Education Establish a Grant Program to Promote Consolidation and Efficiency in Education

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN PENDLETON P	ONTP	

LD 1363 proposed to direct the Commissioner of Education to establish a grant program funded from the General Purpose Aid account, not to exceed \$200,000 in any one year, for the purpose of promoting efficiency and consolidation in the local school districts.

LD 1365

Resolve, to Change the Name of the University of Maine at Augusta to Maine State University

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS DAGGETT	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 1365 proposed to require the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to separate the University of Maine at Augusta from the University of Maine System. This resolve would also direct the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to change the name of the University of Maine at Augusta to Maine State University and to report any necessary legislation that accomplishes these changes to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 1997.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-353), the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to add a fiscal note to the resolve.

LD 1394

An Act to Establish a State Residential Treatment Center for Certain Students

ONTP

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

LD 1394 proposed to allow the Department of Education to establish, by rule, one or more state residential treatment centers for primary and secondary education students to improve achievement for those students who cannot be placed in other private residential placements. A public school or any portion of it may be developed as a center. A center must comply with state law to receive state funding. The bill also proposed to require a center to enroll all exceptional students, for whom school administrative units have been unable to construct a program within the unit or locate an appropriate in-state program, unless the number of applications exceeds capacity, to give preference to eligible students who are Maine residents who present the greatest need and to consider for admission a Maine student in need of residential treatment before that student is placed outside the state.

The bill proposed to prohibit a center from limiting admission based on certain criteria listed in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7505, subsection 4, paragraph C, but allow a center to limit admission to students within a special age group.

The bill also proposed to require a center to be financed by the General Fund and would require the Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for determining various costs. The commissioner is given the authority to operate and supervise a center to provide education for students with severe emotional disorders.

The bill also proposed to require the superintendent of the school administrative unit in which a student resides to apply for enrollment in a center, in accordance with regulations and guidelines set by the commissioner. The unit's pupil evaluation team must decide to make the application, with the consent of the student's parent, based on inability to meet the student's needs in any other state program. Transportation to a center would have been provided in accordance with regulations and guidelines set by the commissioner.

**LD 1398 An Act to Clarify the Law Regarding the Discipline of Exceptional CARRIED OVER
Students**

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

LD 1398 proposes to clarify the authority of school boards in disciplining exceptional students. Under the provisions of this bill, school boards:

1. Have the duty to apply an appropriate disciplinary sanction to an exceptional student whose misconduct violates school rules;
2. May authorize superintendents, principals or assistant principals to sanction exceptional students for such infractions; and
3. May interrupt an exceptional student's special education program when that student is suspended from school for 10 days or less.

The bill further proposes to require the Department of Education to remove state special education regulations that compel school administrative units to provide special educational services to an exceptional student who has been suspended for violation of school rules. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

**LD 1399 An Act to Allow an Appeal Concerning the Date to Determine Age ONTP
for Kindergarten**

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