

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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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, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, 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	
	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINA	L PASSAGE Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE	
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
<i>OTP ND</i>	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	Committee report Ought ToPass 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 Bill held by Governor
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 An Act Concerning Eligibility for Service on a School Board

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KILKELLY		

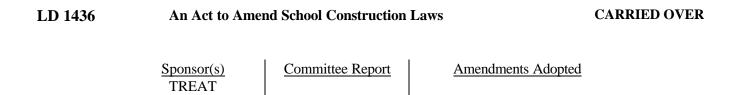
LD 1416 proposes to amend the current definition of "full-time employee" as that applies to school board membership. Currently, neither a full-time employee in a public school nor such an employee's spouse may serve on the district's or union's school board. This bill further proposes a definition of "volunteer" to mean a person who, for no remuneration, volunteers no more than once a month or in no more than five months a year. The bill allows volunteers to serve on a school board but maintains the prohibition against full-time employees serving as school board members. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

LD 1425 An Act to Provide for Direct Reimbursement of Special Education ONTP Costs

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KILKELLY	ONTP	
MITCHELL E		

LD 1425 proposed to guarantee that each school administrative unit in the State would receive compensation for its current year special education costs on a monthly basis. Compensation for special education costs would equal the unit's most recent monthly special education expenditure multiplied by the average statewide state share percentage of program costs in the current year.

The bill further proposed to increase the State's share of special education costs to 100% effective July 1, 2006 and adds a provision for paying 1997-98 school year special education costs to school units over a five-year period, beginning in July 2000.



LD 1436 proposes that the State Board of Education be required to include in its rating plan for school construction projects equal consideration for "substantial" restoration, rather than "complete" restoration, if it is in lieu of new construction and consideration of health and safety, building codes and federal Americans with Disabilities Act violations. The bill also would amend the design limits to eliminate any board requirements for minimum parcel size if the location of a school construction project is consistent with the town's comprehensive plan and other approval criteria are met. The bill further proposes to establish that, once a school administrative unit has been approved by the state board for funding, it may still seek or obtain local funding for a project and be reimbursed for any funds expended prior to receipt of state funding once the money is released from the State to the school administrative unit. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

COWGER