

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MAY 1998

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*Sen. Mary R. Cathcart*  
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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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](http://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:

- 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

**LD 1601****RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require the Legislature to Provide a Statewide System of Uniform and High-quality Education**

ONTP

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

LD 1601 was carried over from the First Regular and First Special Sessions and proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to strike the words requiring that towns make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of schools and to add language requiring the Legislature to support schools and to seek to ensure that a program of uniform and high-quality education is established and continually maintained at all schools in the State.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-576)**, the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to replace the bill and would have established a 12-member special commission of Legislators and legal scholars to study the need to amend the "education clause" of the Constitution of Maine. The special commission would have been required to issue its report and recommendations by January 1, 1999. The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1622****An Act to Require That a Course in Multicultural Education Be Included in All Teacher Preparation Programs in the State**

ONTP

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

LD 1622 was carried over from the First Regular and First Special Sessions and proposed that teacher preparation programs offered in the State must include a mandatory course in multicultural education.

**LD 1652****An Act to Establish the Dirigo Higher Education Bond Program to Provide Financial Aid to Maine Students**

ONTP

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

LD 1652 was carried over from the First Regular and First Special Sessions and proposed to establish the Dirigo Higher Education Bond Program to provide financial aid to Maine students under the administration of the Finance Authority of Maine. The proposed program was designed to offer bonds, for purchase by Maine residents, that would have been redeemable to pay the costs of attendance at institutions of higher education.