

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 E. Small

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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 1769 **An Act to Authorize Additional Adjustments to the State Share of School Funding** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1769 proposes to amend the adjustment provisions of the school finance laws. This bill would accomplish the following.

1. It would require the state share of subsidizable education costs statewide to be at least 50% annually.
2. It would establish a five percent incentive adjustment to promote administrative consolidation of schools within a school administrative unit.
3. It would require the Commissioner of Education to repay each school administrative unit the amounts withheld from that unit in fiscal year 1991-92 and would establish a five-year repayment period beginning in fiscal year 1997-98.
4. It would require the commissioner to propose the legislation necessary to provide 100% state funding for any costs that school administrative units incur in implementing the system of learning results.
5. It would establish a one-year moratorium on new school construction funds until a statewide school facilities inventory and an independent evaluation are completed.
6. It would repeal the provisions related to adjustments for geographic isolation and nonpublic school service. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

LD 1772 **Resolve, to Promote the Health of Maine's Children** **ONTP**

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

LD 1772 proposed to establish the Maine Child Health Task Force. The task force would develop a curriculum and plan for a pilot project for elementary schools to focus on health, physical fitness and physical activity.

LD 1778 **An Act to Establish the Maine Prepaid College Tuition Program** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1778 proposes to establish the Maine Prepaid College Tuition Program, administered by a board of trustees with the administrative support of the Treasurer of State. The program would provide for advance purchase by parents of tuition and housing contracts at current prices that will provide for future attendance by their children at campuses of the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System or the Maine Maritime Academy. Funds under the contracts may be used for attendance at private colleges and universities and to out-of-state public institutions of higher education up to the amount that would have been paid to an in-state institution under the contract. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

LD 1805 Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Education to Establish RESOLVE 38
Plans for an Alternative School Calendar

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DONNELLY	OTP-AM MAJ	H-461
PENDLETON P	ONTP MIN	

LD 1805 proposed to allow a school administrative unit to schedule no more than six consecutive vacation weeks during a calendar year. The bill further proposed to establish the Commission to Study the School Year Calendar to study the effects of an extended school year and increasing compensated training days and programs for teachers.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-461) proposed to replace the original bill and direct the Commissioner of Education to establish plans for an alternative school calendar for local schools that are interested in an alternative school calendar and would direct the commissioner to hold a statewide meeting on the issue of alternative school calendars. The amendment would require the commissioner to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 1998.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 38 directs the Commissioner of Education to establish plans for an alternative school calendar for local schools that are interested in an alternative school calendar and further directs the commissioner to hold a statewide meeting on the issue of alternative school calendars. The law requires the commissioner to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 1998.

LD 1825 An Act to Authorize a Tuition Savings Plan to Encourage CARRIED OVER
Attendance at Institutions of Higher Education

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

LD 1825 proposes to create the Maine Tuition Savings Program to assist residents of the State in meeting the costs of higher education. The bill would provide a mechanism for people to save for education, including favorable tax considerations. This bill is designed to allow a participant to benefit from recently enacted federal tax law providing favorable treatment to tuition savings plans. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.