

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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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).

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.

6. It would repeal the provisions related to adjustments for geographic isolation and nonpublic school service.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-955), proposed to replace the bill. The amendment further proposed to direct the Commissioner of Education to repay local school administrative units the so-called "general purpose aid push" from fiscal year 1990-91 by making a June 1998 subsidy payment of \$39,226,420 as part of the fiscal year 1997-98 supplemental appropriations budget. While this bill was indefinitely postponed, the substance of this amendment was enacted as part of the supplemental appropriations bill with a \$39,226,419 appropriation in fiscal year 1997-98 (see Public Law 1997, chapter 643, part A).

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-972), proposed to require the Department of Education to submit legislation to the 119th Legislature that would replace the current school funding formula with the school funding formula in place on January 1, 1985. The amendment was not adopted.

LD 1778

An Act to Establish the Maine Prepaid College Tuition Program

ONTP

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

LD 1778 was carried over from the First Regular and First Special Sessions and proposed 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 have provided for advance purchase by parents of tuition and housing contracts at current prices that would have provided 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 could also have been 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.

LD 1825

An Act to Authorize a Tuition Savings Plan to Encourage Attendance at Institutions of Higher Education

PUBLIC 732

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PENDLETON P KONTOS	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-620

LD 1825 was carried over from the First Regular and First Special Sessions and proposed to create the Maine Tuition Savings Program to assist residents of the State in meeting the costs of higher education. The bill proposed to 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.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-620), the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to create the Maine College Savings Program to assist Maine residents in meeting the expenses of higher education. Under the program, participants