

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

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Mary R. Cathcart
Sen. Mary E. Small

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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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TESSIER MILLS	OTP	

LD 2042 proposed to authorize Maine School Administrative District No. 49 to accept an additional \$1,400,000 and gifts obtained through fund raising and other sources in a combined total amount not to exceed \$5,500,000 from the Town of Fairfield's Williamson Fund to build an auditorium and supporting facilities. Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 32 authorized the district to accept up to \$3,300,000 from the Williamson Fund to build an auditorium and supporting facilities at no cost to the taxpayers. Since that time, the cost of the project has increased due to changes in the project. The voters of Maine School Administrative District No. 49 approved this additional authorization at the election held on November 4, 1997.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 59 authorizes Maine School Administrative District No. 49 to accept an additional \$1,400,000 and gifts obtained through fund raising and other sources in a combined total amount not to exceed \$5,500,000 from the Town of Fairfield's Williamson Fund to build an auditorium and supporting facilities. Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 32 authorized the district to accept up to \$3,300,000 from the Williamson Fund to build an auditorium and supporting facilities at no cost to the taxpayers. Since that time, the cost of the project has increased due to changes in the project. The voters of Maine School Administrative District No. 49 approved this additional authorization at the election held on November 4, 1997. Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 59 was enacted as an emergency measure effective on February 27, 1998.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN PENDLETON P	OTP-AM	H-842

LD 2044 proposed to permit eligible secondary students to take one course per semester at the University of Maine System or the Maine Technical College System. One half the cost of the tuition would be the responsibility of the postsecondary institution. One half would be paid by the school administrative unit and would be reimbursed by the Department of Education.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-842) proposed to replace the bill. The proposed amendment would permit eligible secondary school students to receive state subsidy for up to three credit hours per semester at the institutions of the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and the Maine Maritime Academy. The amendment also proposed to establish the following eligibility requirements for secondary school students: the eligible institution must have space available, the student must have the equivalent of a "B" average and must have satisfactorily completed all course prerequisites, and the student's participation is subject to approval by both the school unit and the student's parent.