

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
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

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Sen. John J. Cleveland

Sen. Richard A. Bennett

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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>
MITCHELL E PINGREE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 2213 was referred jointly to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. This bill proposed to create the Maine First Scholars Program, designed to provide an incentive for Maine high school graduates to pursue higher education at institutions of higher education in the State. The bill also proposed to provide for an appropriation in the amount of \$14,000,000 to fund the Maine First Scholars Program for the upcoming school year.

Under the proposed program, students graduating from high school would be eligible to receive a scholarship for their first year of attendance, based on demonstrated financial need. The scholarships would be awarded as follows:

1. In the case of students attending institutions in the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System or the Maine Maritime Academy, the amount of the scholarship is capped at the tuition established for the University of Maine.
2. In the case of students attending an institution in the Maine Technical College System, the difference between the amount of tuition at that institution and the tuition at the University of Maine would be paid to the Maine Technical College System to provide for the ability to increase enrollment.
3. Students attending private higher educational institutions may receive a scholarship of up to \$3,000 based on demonstrated financial need.
4. Students receiving scholarships under the Maine First Scholars Program would not be entitled to also receive funds from the student incentive scholarship program.

The bill further proposed that all funds that would have been awarded to students under the student incentive scholarship program had the student not received a scholarship under the Maine First Scholars Program may be allocated to the Maine First Scholars Program for awards to students attending private institutions of higher education.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1082), the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to replace the \$14,000,000 General Fund appropriation to the Maine First Scholars Program with a one-time appropriation of \$9,000,000 for full-time freshmen for the 1998-99 academic year. The amendment further proposed to accomplish the following:

1. It would provide that those funds that would have been paid to eligible students under the student incentive scholarship program fund had those students not received a Maine First Program grant may be allocated to the Maine First Scholars Program fund to be used for grants to eligible students attending private institutions of higher education in the State.

2. It would reduce the amount allocated for scholarships to private institutions to \$500,000.
3. It would require a report to be provided to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the Maine First Scholars Program in December 1999.
4. It would extend to 24 months the time after graduation from high school or equivalent that the student is eligible for the Maine First Scholars Program.
5. It would clarify that the rules that the Finance Authority of Maine must adopt to prioritize available funds are routine technical rules.
6. It would further provide that students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average during the year for which they receive a grant under the Maine First Scholars Program. If a student does not achieve the 2.0 grade point average in the student's first semester or does not complete the semester, the student will not receive a Maine First Scholars Program grant for the 2nd semester. If a student does not complete the first year or does not attain a minimum 2.0 grade point average for the first year, then that student must reimburse the Finance Authority of Maine for the full amount of the grant.
7. It would also require that the University of Maine System dedicate any incremental increases of tuition revenue from students in the Maine First Scholars Program to provide scholarships for program participants.

Finally, the amendment proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

While this bill died in concurrence, two of the substantive provisions of this bill were enacted as part of the supplemental appropriations bill. The Maine Technical College System received a \$3,000,000 appropriation in fiscal year 1998-99 to provide funds for information technology, capital equipment and facility improvements (see Public Law 1997, chapter 643, part FF). The Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program received an additional \$4,000,000 appropriation in fiscal year 1998-99 (see Public Law 1997, chapter 643, part HH). The supplemental appropriations bill also increased the minimum amount of scholarships from \$500 to \$1,000 and eliminated the requirement that scholarships for students attending private postsecondary education institutions must be 2 times the amount of scholarships awarded to students attending public postsecondary education institutions.

LD 2218 **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force On** **INDEF PP**
Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2218 proposed to implement the legislative recommendations of the Task Force on Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly, established by Public Law 1997, chapter 560, Part E. LD 2218 proposed to expand the elderly low-cost drug program to cover those who meet the age and disability requirements and whose income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty level. It also directed the Department of Human Services to seek a Medicaid waiver from the federal Health Care Financing Administration to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits for persons 62 years of age and over whose income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty level. LD 2218 also required the Department of Human Services to provide educational materials on the elderly low-cost drug program to be distributed by the Bureau of Revenue Services when sending out the program's drug cards to eligible residents.