

# 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](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.

meet up to three additional times during 1998 prior to issuing its final report not later than December 15, 1998. In addition, this amendment proposed to make a technical change, add a fiscal note and an appropriation section to the resolve.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1997, chapter 122 implements the recommendations of the Task Force to Study Strategies to Support Parents as Children's First Teachers created by Resolve 1997, chapter 68. The resolve directs the Commissioner of Corrections, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Human Services and the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to develop a fiscal plan for the expansion of state-funded child and family support services and related programs, develop a core curriculum and training program for parents and caregivers and develop a plan to meet identified needs for family support programs. The law also authorizes the task force to meet up to three additional times during 1998 prior to issuing its final report not later than December 15, 1998.

**LD 2271                      An Act to Include Locally Funded Debt Service in the Formula for Purposes of the Circuit Breaker Program                      ONTP**

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

LD 2271 proposed to amend the current method used to determine the local share of debt service for school construction projects by requiring the State to include in its calculation of whether a school administrative unit has met the circuit breaker the actual debt service for all school construction projects being paid by that unit whether approved for state funding or not. The bill further proposed to require that once a municipality reaches the circuit breaker, it must contribute an additional 1.0 mills in order to remain eligible for the school construction funding.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-1060)**, the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill. The amendment was not adopted.

**LD 2289                      An Act to Make Certain Changes in the Educational Law                      PUBLIC 696**

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

LD 2289 is a new draft of LD 1260 and was voted out of committee as an “Ought to Pass in New Draft” report pursuant to Joint Rule 310. The new draft proposed to accomplish the following purposes:

It would extend the existing waivers of certain requirements in the areas of student-teacher ratios; student personnel services, including guidance and counseling; school approval on-site reviews; school accreditation; and implementation of plans for gifted and talented students. The extension of these waivers is recommended pending the final recommendations of the Essential Programs and Services Committee in its report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs during the First

Regular Session of the 119th Legislature; and

1. It would allow school administrative units another opportunity to issue upgrades for educational technicians who were not recommended for reclassification due to an error on the part of the school administrative unit. The new deadline proposed for upgrading the classification for these “grandfathered” educational technicians is July 1, 1999.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 696 extends the existing waivers of certain statutory requirements in the areas of student-teacher ratios; student personnel services, including guidance and counseling; school approval on-site reviews; school accreditation; and implementation of plans for gifted and talented students. This law also allows school administrative units another opportunity to issue upgrades for educational technicians who were not recommended for reclassification due to an error on the part of the school administrative unit. The new deadline established for upgrading the classification for these “grandfathered” educational technicians is July 1, 1999.