

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

JULY 1999

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
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 September 18, 1999.

Public Law 1999, chapter 17 requires that school administrative units must first obtain the written approval of a student's parents prior to publishing on the Internet or furnishing for publication on the Internet any personal information that can be used to identify a student of that public school.

LD 235 **An Act to Increase the Amount of State Contribution to Out-of-district Placements** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMALL ETNIER	OTP-AM	

LD 235 proposed to increase the state share of out-of-district placements to 75% of the actual cost of the placements.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-21) proposed to change the state share of out-of-district placement funding to 60%. The amendment also proposed to retain the adjustment provision in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15612, subsection 11 that specifies that a school administrative unit that places a student in an out-of-district placement must receive an adjustment equal to the amount, if any, by which the tuition, treatment and room and board costs for an approved out-of-district special education placement in the year of allocation exceeds three times the secondary foundation per pupil operating rate for that year or a prorated amount if the placement is less than a full year.

The substance of this amendment was enacted as part of the Part II Budget bill (see Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part HH).

LD 269 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Repair and Renovation of Schools** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 269 was referred to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and proposes to provide funds to capitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund. The Governor's Commission on School Facilities presented a plan to the Governor and the 118th Legislature designed to address Maine's public school construction, renovation and repair needs. One recommendation was that the State issue \$35,000,000 in general obligation bonds in each fiscal year 1998-99 and 1999-00. Part A of this bill proposes a \$35,000,000 bond to be presented to the voters in November 1999. The commission also recommended an immediate General Fund appropriation of \$30,000,00. Part B of this bill proposes to appropriate \$10,000,000 to the School Revolving Renovation Fund to bring the total appropriation level of the program to \$30,000,0000. Public Law 1997, chapter 787 included a General Fund appropriation of \$20,000,000 to the School Revolving Renovation Fund. This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 312 **An Act to Prohibit the University of Maine System and the Public Vocational Schools from Competing in the Printing Industry** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENOIT GOOLEY	ONTP	

LD 312 proposed to prohibit the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System, and applied technology centers and regions from competing with commercial printing businesses.

LD 364 **An Act to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 364 proposed to provide a total of \$7,500,000 in General Fund appropriations to increase postsecondary educational opportunities for Maine students. The bill proposed to provide \$1,000,000 to the Department of Education to develop a program to assist Maine high schools to hire college guidance counselors. The bill also proposed to provide \$250,000 each to the University of Maine System and to the Maine Technical College System for the development of student retention programs. Finally, the bill proposed to provide a General Fund appropriation of \$6,000,000 to the University of Maine System to create a special financing fund as a last-resort mechanism to supplement existing financial aid.

LD 399 **An Act to Assist Students with Disabilities in the Transition from School to Employment or Postsecondary Education** **VETO SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WATSON KONTOS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-26 S-400 MICHAUD
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LD 399 proposed to provide a General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education for the Interdepartmental Committee on Transition. The funds would be used to assist Maine public schools to reach compliance with federal and state transition laws and regulations as they relate to Maine's system of learning results.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-26) proposed to strike the title and replace it with a new title that more accurately reflects the purpose of the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-400) proposed to provide for General Fund appropriations of \$100,000 in each year of the biennium rather than a \$200,000 appropriation in fiscal year 1999-00.

LD 424 **An Act to Remove Favorable Weighting of Consolidation in the School Funding Formula** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GLYNN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 424 proposed to remove the favorable weighting provided to school consolidation projects in the school construction project rating process. Under this bill, the State Board of Education could not assign any additional points to a school construction project that proposes to consolidate two or more existing schools into one new school building.