

# 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**

***MEMBERS:***

***Sen. Georgette B. Berube, Chair***

***Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.***

***Sen. Mary E. Small***

***Rep. Michael F. Brennan, Chair***

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***Staff:***

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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](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:

*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.

Sponsor(s)  
SNOWE-MELLO  
PARADIS

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 490 proposes to require that educational services be provided to a student with a disability who is being suspended for behavior that is caused by the student's disability. It proposes that schools be required to conduct a prompt review of whether the misconduct for which the school seeks to suspend a student with a disability is a manifestation of the student's disability. If it is, the school would still be allowed to suspend the

student, but would have to provide educational services consistent with the student's individual education plan during the suspension (see also LD 1308, enacted as P.L. 1999, c. 424 Sec. A-1). The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Education.

**LD 499**                      **An Act to Appropriate Funds for Acquisitions for the Maine State Library and for Library Resource Sharing**

**P & S 55  
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)  
COLWELL  
CATHCART

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 499 was referred to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and proposed to increase the Maine State Library's acquisition budget to the level of the other area reference and resource centers located at the Bangor and Portland Public Libraries. The bill also proposed to provide funds to merge the current CD ROM program, MaineCat, with the on-line Maine Info Net project to produce a single comprehensive and accurate statewide library catalog immediately accessible from any computer with an Internet connection.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-391)** proposed to eliminate the appropriation of \$75,000 in fiscal year 1999-00 to support an improved version of MaineCat since the supplemental budget includes \$75,000 in each of fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01 for operating costs associated with MaineCat and Info Net updates (please see P.L. 1999, c. 401, Part A, Sec. A-1).

*Enacted law summary*

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 55 provides a \$200,000 increase in the Maine State Library's acquisition budget to the level of the other area reference and resource centers located at the Bangor and Portland Public Libraries.

Chapter 55 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 16, 1999.

**LD 517**                      **An Act to Amend the School Funding Formula by Taking Sales Tax into Account**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
GLYNN

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 517 is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposed to amend the school funding formula by taking the sales tax receipts of a community into account when that community's state education funding is determined.

**LD 559**                      **An Act to Prohibit the University of Maine System from Financially Supporting Greek Organizations**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
O'NEIL

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted