

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

Rep. Shirley K. Richard

Rep. Mabel J. Desmond

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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.

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

LD 559 proposed to amend the charter of the University of Maine System to prohibit public money from being used to support a Greek fraternity or sorority.

LD 573

**An Act Relating to the Construction of a Locally Funded Arts and
Technology Center in Maine School Administrative District No. 49**

**P & S 2
EMERGENCY**

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

LD 573 proposed to repeal Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 32 and Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 59, which authorized Maine School Administrative District No. 49 to construct and equip a locally funded arts and technology center. Subject to approval by the voters of the district, the bill proposed to authorize the Board of School Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 49 to expend \$5,500,000 and to use a design for its proposed locally funded arts and technology center that includes a technology suite, an auditorium using the structure of the existing junior high school gymnasium, a new junior high school gymnasium and other additions and improvements to the Lawrence Junior-Senior High School complex in the Town of Fairfield. This bill also proposed to clarify that construction of an auditorium using the structure of the existing junior high school gymnasium and construction of a new junior high school gymnasium are permitted as part of the project. As with the prior laws, the district would be authorized to enter into a design-build contract or other alternative construction arrangements for the project and the only state approvals required for the project are approval of the plans and specifications by the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Human Services.

Under this bill, the additional operating costs of the project during its first two years would be required to be paid from gifts to the district, available funds of the district from sources other than taxation and local appropriations without state participation approved by the voters of the district pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15614, subsection 3.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special 1999, chapter 2 repeals Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 32 and Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 59, which authorized Maine School Administrative District No. 49 to construct and equip a locally funded arts and technology center. Subject to approval by the voters of the district, the bill authorizes the Board of School Directors to expend \$5,500,000 and to use a design for its proposed locally funded arts and technology center that includes a technology suite, an auditorium using the structure of the existing junior high school gymnasium, a new junior high school gymnasium and other additions and improvements to the Lawrence Junior-Senior High School complex in the Town of Fairfield. This law also clarifies that construction of an auditorium using the structure of the existing junior high school gymnasium and construction of a new junior high school gymnasium are permitted as part of the project. As with the prior laws, this law authorizes the district to enter into a design-build contract or other alternative construction arrangements for the project and establishes that the only state approvals required for the project are approval of the plans and specifications by the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Human Services.

Under this law, the additional operating costs of the project during its first two years are required to be paid from gifts to the district, available funds of the district from sources other than taxation and local appropriations without state participation approved by the voters of the district pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15614, subsection 3.

Chapter 2 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 11, 1999.