

# 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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***Rep. Mary Black Andrews***

***Rep. Carol Weston***

***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.

**LD 664**                      **An Act to Fully Fund Implementation of All Learning Results Standards and Reimburse Professional Development Costs**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 664 proposed to require the State to fully fund the costs of implementing the system of learning results and related professional development costs.

**LD 681**                      **An Act to Fund Public School Alliances**                      **P & S 56**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNON DAGGETT	OTP-AM	H-95 S-402 MICHAUD

LD 681 proposed to make General Fund appropriations to the Department of Education of \$140,000 annually to develop a grant program that will help fund public school alliances such as the Kennebec Alliance.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-95)** proposed limiting the number of grants to support public school alliances under the bill to 20 per year and requiring the Department of Education to adopt rules that establish a preference in awarding grants to school alliances that obtain local matching funds.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-402)** proposed to reduce the amount of General Fund support for the public school alliance grant program to \$100,000 and delay the beginning of the grant program until fiscal year 2000- 01.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special 1999, chapter 56 makes a General Fund appropriation of \$100,000 in FY 2000-01 to establish a grant program in the Department of Education to support up to 20 public school alliances. The department is authorized to adopt rules to implement the grant program which rules must provide a preference in awarding grants to school alliances that secure matching local resources.

**LD 700**

**An Act to Amend Voting Procedures for School Unions**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PERKINS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 700 proposed to change the voting procedure for school union committees from one based on the relative populations of the school units comprising the union to one based on the relative student enrollment within the school units comprising the union.

**LD 708**

**An Act to Provide Educational Opportunities for Persons Who Resided in Foster Care as Children**

**PUBLIC 216**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-231
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LD 708 proposed to provide a tuition waiver at state postsecondary educational institutions for persons 17 or 18 years of age who have resided in foster care for at least one full year.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-231)** proposed to clarify the eligibility criteria and limitation provisions of tuition waivers established in the original bill. This amendment proposed to accomplish the following.

1. It would eliminate the age criterion as a basis for eligibility and clarify that any person who was in the custody of the Department of Human Services and resided in foster care at the time that person graduated from high school or successfully completed a general educational development examination or its equivalent is eligible for a tuition waiver.
2. It would permit a tuition waiver to be available to a student enrolled in a certificate program of at least one year, as well as for a student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program.
3. It would define "unmet need" and would limit the amount of the tuition waiver available to an eligible person to the difference between the total cost of attendance at the postsecondary educational institution and the total of all sources of financial assistance, including federal funds provided through the Department of Human Services.
4. It would limit the scope of the tuition waiver program by limiting it to 25 eligible persons per year.