

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:

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Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. Mary E. Small

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Maine State Legislature
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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.

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>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERKINS	ONTP	

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>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN	OTP-AM	H-231

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.