

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

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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.

this requirement one year, from July 1, 1999 to July 1, 2000. Under this law, the necessary steps include fingerprinting the applicant, conducting the needed state and federal criminal history record checks by the State Bureau of Identification and forwarding the results by the bureau to the department.

Chapter 35 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 29, 1999.

**LD 798**                      **An Act to Permit Local Control and Funding of An Educational Building  
in Accordance With a Municipal Charter**                      **PUBLIC 95**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOUGLASS	OTP-AM    MAJ ONTP        MIN	S-34

LD 798 proposed that a municipal school unit be permitted to approve a nonstate funded school construction project without a local referendum vote if such powers are vested in the municipal council by municipal charter. See also LD 1329.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-34)** proposed language to clarify the intent of the bill to.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 95 allows a municipal school unit to approve a locally funded school construction project without a local referendum if the municipality operates under a charter that does not require a referendum for other municipal construction projects.

**LD 813**                      **An Act to Amend the Requirements of Full-time Students for State-  
funding Purposes**                      **PUBLIC 439**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAVERDIERE NUTTING J	OTP-AM	H-372

LD 813 proposed to allow school administrative units to be reimbursed proportionally for students participating in equivalent instruction programs, yet still receive some level of on-site academic services provided by their local public school. Under this bill, such students would be classified as full-time equivalent students according to the amount of time they receive on-site academic services at a public school. School administrative units would be required to keep accurate records and report full-time equivalency enrollment.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-372)** proposed to clarify that school administrative units receive state subsidy for any student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program who receives instruction through one or more on-site academic courses from a public school but is not a full-time student. Under this amendment, school administrative units that send tuition students to another school administrative unit or to a private school pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 219 would also be entitled to receive state subsidy for these students.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 439 allows school administrative units to be reimbursed proportionally for students who participate in equivalent instruction programs, yet still receive instruction through one or more on-site academic courses from a public school. The law establishes that such students are classified as full-time equivalent students according to

the amount of time they receive on-site academic services from a public school. Under this law, school administrative units that send tuition students to another school administrative unit or to a private school pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 219 are also entitled to receive state subsidy for these students. School administrative units are required to keep accurate records and report full-time equivalency enrollment.

**LD 826                      An Act Concerning Student Medication                      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PIEH KILKELLY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 826 proposed to amend current law and Department of Education rules regarding the administration medication to students. This bill proposed to provide a school secretary with the sole discretion of exercising an option to administer medication to students.

**LD 836                      Resolve, Establishing a Commission to Study the Maine Education Assessment                      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MURPHY T	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 836 proposed to establish the Commission to Study the Maine Education Assessment. Under this resolve, the commission would study the construction, implementation, administration, grading and costs of the Maine Education Assessment and would submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature and the Joint Standing Committee on Education by December 1, 1999.

**LD 842                      An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$100,000,000 for School Construction and Renovation                      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FRECHETTE PENDLETON	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 842 was referred to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and proposed to provide funds, in the amount of \$100,000,000 bond issue, that would be used to fund school construction and renovations.

**LD 870                      An Act to Improve School Safety and Learning Environments                      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAWRENCE SAXL M	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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