

# 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***

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

***Rep. Shirley K. Richard***

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***Rep. Mary Black Andrews***

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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.

**LD 888**

**An Act to Grant the State Board of Education Authority to Appoint the Commissioner of Education**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINKHAM	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 888 proposed to amend current law which grants to the Governor the authority to appoint the Commissioner of Education to give that authority to the State Board of Education.

**LD 915**

**An Act to Ensure the Efficacy of Learning Results**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SKOGLUND	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 915 proposed to direct the Department of Education to establish lesson plans and recommended textbook lists to assist schools in meeting the requirement of the system of learning results. The plans and lists would be made available for first use during the 2001-2002 school year. The bill further proposed to repeal the system of learning results if the department failed to meet that deadline.

**LD 932**

**An Act to Establish the Position of School Nurse Consultant**

**VETO  
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROWE LAWRENCE	OTP-AM	H-85

LD 932 proposed to reestablish the position of school nurse consultant within the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education. The school nurse consultant's duties would include acting as a liaison to the school health provider and policy-setting groups; providing health care, nursing, policy and legal information regarding school nursing, school health programs and professional development; promoting staff development and promoting school nursing excellence and optimal health of school children.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-85)** proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 933**

**An Act to Permit the Submission of Citizens' Initiatives and Citizens' Vetoes to School Districts**

**CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 933 proposes to establish a direct initiative and people's veto process applying to school policies and rules that could be exercised by the voters of any school unit. The processes proposed are similar to those available under the Constitution of Maine for initiation and veto of legislation by the voters of the State. The State Board of Education has

been requested by committee letter to review and report to the committee next session on this bill and other related school governance and budget issues. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 948**                      **An Act to Provide Professional Development for Implementing Learning Results**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MITCHELL B LOVETT	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 948 proposed to provide five additional days of teacher in-service training each school year to ensure coordination of school policies for curriculum, instruction and assessment with the attainment of the learning results standards.

**LD 956**                      **Resolve, to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study Strategies to Support Parents as Children's First**                      **RESOLVE 79**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BAKER LAWRENCE	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 956 which was jointly referred to the Health and Human Services Committee (the lead committee) and the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee proposed to implement the following recommendations of the Task Force to Study Strategies to Support Parents as Children's First Teachers. The resolve proposed to:

1. Direct the Department of Human Services to expand home visiting services to the parents of all newborn children in the State, if the parents desire the services, beginning January 1, 2000, until those children attain the age of five years.
2. Direct the Department of Education to include a course of study in parenting education in its development of curricula and include this course of study in the learning results assessment of students.

The resolve also proposed to change the name of the task force to the "Task Force on Early Care and Education." It proposed to direct the task force to monitor the development of the process that supports home visiting programs by the Department of Human Services and the development of a course of study in parenting education by the Department of Education and to further study the needs of and for family resource centers. The resolve proposed to add two more members who are Legislators to the task force and extend the life of the task force until January 15, 2001. See also LD 1315.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-623)** is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The amendment proposed to replace the resolve. It proposed to retain the provisions of the resolve expanding home visiting services, require an evaluation component, allow voluntary donations on a sliding scale by families upon termination of services to those families and make General Fund appropriations to fund home visiting services. It proposed to change the name of the task force to the "Task Force on Early Care and Education." It proposed to direct the task force to monitor the development of the process that supports home visiting programs by the Department of Human Services. It proposed to delete reference to a course of study in parenting education. The amendment proposed to retain the provisions of the resolve that add 2 more members who are Legislators to the task force and extend the life of the task force until January 15, 2001. It proposed to require an interim report of the task force before January 15, 2000 and a final report before January 15, 2001. It also proposed to add an appropriation section.