

# 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***

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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.

The provisions of the resolve and the committee amendment expanding home visiting services, requiring an evaluation component to the program and allowing voluntary family donations on a sliding scale upon termination of services to those families were included in the Part II Budget, P.L. 1999, c. 401, Part LLL.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-454)** proposed to reduce the General Fund costs of the bill by \$1,620,000 in fiscal year 1999-00 and \$6,408,440 in fiscal year 2000-01. A General Fund appropriation of \$1,620,000 was included in the Part II Budget, P.L. 1999, c. 401, Part LLL.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1999, chapter 79 renames the Task Force to Study Strategies to Support Parents as Children’s First Teachers. The new name is the Task Force on Early Care and Education. The task force membership is expanded to include two additional legislators. An interim report is required from the task force by January 15, 2000 and a final report by January 15, 2001

**LD 981**                                 **Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Authorize the City of Auburn to Conduct the Expansion, Renovation and Repair of the East Auburn School in Auburn, Maine**                                 **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DOUGLASS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 981 proposed to direct the Department of Education to authorize the City of Auburn to perform the expansion, renovation and repair of the East Auburn School in Auburn including to remedy existing health and safety problems and acquire land to accommodate the physical expansion of the school building. The sponsor requested an ONTP report on the bill because LD 780 deals with the issue in a more general way. (LD 780 was carried over by the committee).

**LD 999**                                 **An Act to Reduce Property Taxes by Reimbursing Out-of-District Special Education Placements and to Establish Oversight of Those Costs**                                 **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DOUGLASS MENDROS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 999 proposed to require the State to reimburse a school administrative district for 100% of the district's special education tuition and cost for an out-of-district placement. This bill also proposed to require the Department of Education to oversee entities that provide special education services and out-of-district placements and to report annually to all school districts all of the cost-saving measures taken by the department in the year reported.

**LD 1050**                                 **An Act to Establish a Scholarship Fund for Law Enforcement Education**                                 **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TUTTLE	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1050 proposed to establish the Scholarships for Law Enforcement Education Fund. The purpose of the fund would have been to provide financial assistance in the form of loans to college students and graduating high school seniors who demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in law enforcement. The Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine would have administered the fund, including loan repayment requirements.

**LD 1053**                      **An Act to Clarify the Laws Relating to Nonstate-funded School Construction Projects Approved by the Commissioner of Education that Replace Existing School Buildings**                      **PUBLIC 206**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS TOBIN D	OTP	

LD 1053 proposed to clarify that, once the voters of a school administrative unit or a consolidated school district and the Commissioner of Education have approved a nonstate-funded school construction project that replaces an existing school building, a separate referendum vote is not required to close the existing school building (closure of buildings due to lack of need or condemnation may still require a referendum vote). The bill also proposed to correct a cross reference in the school closure law to the commissioner’s authority to approve locally funded construction projects under the school construction law.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 206 clarifies that, once the voters of a school administrative unit or a consolidated school district and the Commissioner of Education have approved a nonstate-funded school construction project that replaces an existing school building, a separate referendum vote is not required to close the existing school building.

**LD 1056**                      **An Act to Clarify Conflicts of Interest Regarding Local School Board Members**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING J JACOBS	ONTP	

LD 1056 proposed to amend the conflict of interest law for school board members to permit the spouse of a board member to be employed as a substitute teacher or extracurricular activity coach or to work as a volunteer in a school within the jurisdiction of the school board on which that person's spouse serves. The school board member of a spouse who did so would have to excuse himself or herself from salary or other personnel decisions affecting the spouse. See also LD 1354.

**LD 1085**                      **An Act to Amend the Qualifications for Participation in the High School Aspirations Incentives Program**                      **PUBLIC 495**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATSON KONTOS	OTP-AM	H-86