

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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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).

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 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