

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.

Sen. Mary E. Small

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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 1085 proposed to expand the eligibility criteria for participation in the Post-secondary Enrollment Options Program established last year to provide state subsidy for participation in postsecondary study by certain high school students. The bill proposed to allow students enrolled in grade 10, 11 or 12 to participate without satisfying the academic requirements established last year if assessed and recommended for participation by their school guidance counselor. During discussions on the bill, the committee expressed some concerns about how limited grant funds were distributed by the Department of Education during the first year of the program and about the geographical distribution of grants throughout the state. The committee sent a letter to the Commissioner of Education requesting a report back on these and other issues next session.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-86) proposed that a high school student enrolled in grade 11 or 12 qualifies for the eligibility exception for receipt of a state subsidy for postsecondary courses provided in the bill and also proposed that to qualify for the eligibility exception a student must be assessed and recommended by the administration of the student's school. Finally, the amendment proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 495 expands the eligibility criteria for participation in the Post-secondary Enrollment Options Program established last year to provide state subsidy for participation in postsecondary study by certain high school students. Chapter 495 allows students enrolled in grade 11 or 12 to participate without satisfying the statutory academic requirements if assessed and recommended for participation by the administration of their school.

LD 1089

An Act to Require Consideration of Part-time Students for Dean's List and other Academic Honors within the Maine Technical College System

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NORBERT LONGLEY	ONTP	

LD 1089 proposed that part-time students enrolled at each college within the Maine Technical College System receive the same consideration for dean's list and other academic honors as full-time students at those colleges.

LD 1143

An Act to Provide Funding for the Education Research Institute

P & S 42

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

LD 1143 was referred to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and proposed to provide General Fund appropriations for the Educational Research Institute in the amount of \$150,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium to maintain the kindergarten to grade 12 education database and support targeted research projects.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-174) proposed to eliminate the reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs in the appropriations for the Educational Research Institute and to clarify that the appropriated funds may not be used for travel.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-404) proposed to return the changes made to the bill in the Committee Amendment and to deappropriate \$75,000 in each year of the biennium from General Purpose Aid to Local Schools and the University of Maine System to offset the appropriations to the institute.