

STATE OF MAINE 119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

JULY 1999

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Maine State Legislature

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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, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, 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	
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	
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	
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY	
INDEF PP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
	Committee report Ought ToPass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
	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.

David E. Boulter, Director Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135 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 ONTP and other Academic Honors within the Maine Technical College System

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report
NORBERT	ONTP
LONGLEY	

Amendments Adopted

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 1143An Act to Provide Funding for the Education ResearchP & S 42Institute

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedMARTIN

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.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 42 provides an appropriation 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. The appropriated funds may not be used for travel. To fund the appropriation, \$75,000 is deappropriated in each year of the biennium from General Purpose Aid to Local Schools and the University of Maine System.

LD 1215	An Act Regarding the Eligibility of a Citizen to Serve as a School Board Member	ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amena
MARVIN	ONTP	

Amendments Adopted

LD 1215 proposed to prohibit a person and the spouse of a person suing a school board, the school administrative unit or a school within the jurisdiction of the board from serving on that school board if the suit could result in material gain.

LD 1216 An Act to More Equitably Distribute General Purpose Aid to Schools ONTP Based on Property Values

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BELANGER	ONTP	
KIEFFER		

LD 1216 proposed to remove the income and cost-of-living factors from the distribution of funding for education under the School Finance Act of 1995, leaving relative property valuation as the only measure of fiscal capacity. It also proposed to require that reductions in state funds be made by applying a mill rate to each school administrative unit rather than a percentage.

LD 1217 An Act to Make Courses that Teach English as a 2nd Language INDEF PP Reimbursable by the State

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BELANGER	OTP-AM	H-373

LD 1217 proposed to require that approved courses that teach English as a second language be included as a subsidizable program cost under the School Finance Act of 1985. Under this bill, schools with approved courses that teach English as a second language would be reimbursed by the State for the costs of these courses.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-373) proposed to replace the bill. Under this amendment, a school administrative unit that places a student in an approved transitional instruction program using English as a second language or bilingual techniques under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4701, subsection 2 would receive an adjustment in its state subsidy equal to the amount of supplemental costs for certified instruction programs that teach English as a second language instruction in the approved program. The adjustment to state subsidy would be limited to the salary and benefit costs of certified teachers with an endorsement in English as a second language or bilingual education, as well as the salary and benefit costs of education technicians providing services through a transitional