

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

JULY 2000

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

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
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

medication to students in public or approved private schools based on the training model and the training manual developed by the School Health Advisory Committee.

LD 1305

An Act to Establish and Fund Conflict Resolution Education Programs in the Public Schools

PUBLIC 781

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATSON LONGLY	OTP-AM	H-1005 S-746 MICHAUD

LD 1305 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed to create a grant program within the Department of Education to encourage conflict resolution education programs in public elementary and secondary schools. Under this proposed bill, the programs may include peer mediation programs and may be directed at students and teachers, administrators and other staff.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-317) proposed to implement part of the recommendations of the Commission to Study Providing Educators with More Authority to Remove Violent Students from Educational Settings. This amendment is the majority report of the committee and proposed to change the title of the bill. The amendment further proposed to direct and provide funding for the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to schools in developing violence prevention and intervention training for educators, staff and students that emphasize conflict resolution education, peer mediation and early identification and response to signs of violence. The amendment also proposed to establish a grant program to be administered by the Department of Education to support the establishment of conflict resolution and peer mediation programs in schools. Finally, the amendment proposed to provide funding support for the Attorney General's Civil Rights Team Project.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-1005), the majority report of the committee, proposed to implement one of the recommendations of the Commission to Study Providing Educators with More Authority to Remove Violent Students from Educational Settings. The amendment proposed to direct and provide funding for the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to schools in developing violence prevention and intervention training for educators, staff and students that emphasizes conflict resolution education, peer mediation and early identification and response to signs of violence. The amendment also proposed to establish a grant program to be administered by the Department of Education to support the establishment of conflict resolution and peer mediation programs in schools.

The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "B" (S-746) proposed to reduce the amount appropriated for school conflict resolution programs from \$100,000 to \$50,000, and proposed to clarify that the appropriation provides one-time funds.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 781 implements one of the recommendations of the Commission to Study Providing Educators with More Authority to Remove Violent Students from Educational Settings. The law directs the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to schools in developing violence prevention and intervention training for educators, staff and students that emphasizes conflict resolution

education, peer mediation and early identification and response to signs of violence. The law also provides a one-time appropriation of \$50,000 to establish a grant program to be administered by the Department of Education to support the establishment of conflict resolution and peer mediation programs in schools.

LD 1346

**An Act to Improve the School Administrative District and
Community School District Budget Development and Approval
Process**

PUBLIC 710

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROOKS	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-1079

LD 1346 which proposed to amend the School Administrative District (SAD) budget approval process was carried over from the First Regular Session. Under current law, when the voters in a SAD that uses the alternative budget approval process fail to adopt their budget by referendum, the board of directors of the SAD can exercise an option to bring the budget to a 2nd or subsequent vote at an open meeting rather than by referendum. LD 1346 proposed that, in those situations, school budgets must be adopted by referendum. The bill also proposed that an SAD budget proposal submitted a 3rd time may not be greater than the previous school year's budget plus an increase adjusted for the Consumer Price Index. For a budget submitted more than 3 times, the budget proposal submitted to referendum must be lower than the proposal made at the previous referendum.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1079) is the majority report of the committee and replaced the bill. The amendment proposed an optional new school budget cost center format and budget approval process for use by school administrative districts and community school districts. The new options replace format and approval options that are available under current law and that will no longer be available for adoption, but, if in place, may continue to be used. No district will be required to adopt either the new format or the budget approval process. However, after the effective date of this Act, if a district wishes to change the format or process it currently uses, the new options will be the only alternatives available. Both the budget format and the budget approval process may be adopted by the voters of the district at referendum. In certain circumstances, the new format may also be adopted by the local school board on its own initiative. The cost center summary budget format may be adopted separately or the new format and the approval process may be adopted together to complement each other.

The new optional budget format consists of 6 standard expenditure areas and 3 standard revenue areas, each with accompanying plain language explanations. There is also an overall summary expenditure item. The 9 cost centers and summary under the new budget format form the basis for the budget warrant articles that are submitted to district voters for approval annually. The amendment authorizes school boards to transfer up to 5% of the school budget between budget cost centers without voter approval.

The new optional budget approval process allows district voters to add a 2nd step to the process for finalization of the school budget. If the new process is adopted by voters, after initial approval of the district budget at a district budget meeting, the total budget approved must be submitted to the voters of the district for final validation at a district referendum within 3 days of the district budget meeting. If the voters reject the budget at referendum, another budget must be considered at a district budget meeting at least 10 days after the referendum. The budget adopted at the subsequent district budget meeting must then be submitted to the voters for validation in a separate referendum vote. The process is