

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:

Sen. Georgette B. Berube, Chair

Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. Mary E. Small

Rep. Michael F. Brennan, Chair

Rep. Shirley K. Richard

Rep. Mabel J. Desmond

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Rep. Mary Black Andrews

Rep. Carol Weston

Staff:

Phillip D. McCarthy, Ed.D., Legislative Analyst

***Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670***



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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 1413**An Act to Amend the Special Education Rules****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOLDTHWAIT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1413 proposed to require that the rules adopted by the Department of Education relating to special education conform to federal statutes and regulations and to prohibit the adoption of rules that are more stringent than the federal statutes or regulations. The bill also would have directed that the Department of Education conduct rulemaking to amend any of its current rules that are more stringent than the federal statutes or regulations to conform to federal standards.

LD 1415**An Act to Restore Funding for Continuing Education for Teachers****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TREAT FULLER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1415 proposed to restore statutory language authorizing loans to teachers pursuing graduate study or continuing education under the Teachers for Maine Program and would have restored funding for the program at levels previously available. These two types of loans were eliminated last year in the budget bill.

LD 1459**An Act to Establish Air Quality Standards for Rental Units Leased by Schools****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WATSON TREAT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1459 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposed to establish air quality standards for trailers and other structures or buildings leased by schools and used as temporary classrooms.

LD 1468**An Act to Eliminate the Licensing Requirements for Certain School Administrators****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MACK		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1468 proposed to repeal the requirement that a person have a superintendent's certificate in order to be employed as a superintendent. It also proposed to provide that the selection of a superintendent by a school board is not subject to approval by the State. It further proposed to repeal the provision of law that requires the Board of Education to establish qualifications for certifying certain school administrators, including superintendents, principals and directors of vocational education.