

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.

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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 1470**Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study the Simplification of the School Funding Formula****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLOUGH LIBBY	ONTP	

LD 1470 proposed to establish the Task Force to Study the Simplification of the School Funding Formula. The members of the task force would have consisted of 17 community leaders, one member from each county and one administrator from the University of Maine System. The proposed task force would have been charged with developing a school funding formula that provides for the fair and equitable distribution of funds to schools throughout the State and with restructuring the school funding formula in a way that could be easily understood by people throughout the State.

LD 1509**An Act to Amend and Improve the Education Laws****PUBLIC 75**

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

LD 1509, a departmental bill, proposed to make numerous technical corrections to the education laws, including correcting several cross reference errors and a typographical error. It also proposed to change the amount that a town in a school administrative district is required to pay if it votes to keep an elementary school open against the recommendation of the school administrative district board of directors. Under this bill, the town would have to pay the full amount that would have been saved by closing the school. Finally the bill proposed to authorize issuance of a Maine professional teacher certificate (rather than a two-year provisional certificate) to an experienced out-of-state teacher who has a certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Education.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 75 requires a town in a school administrative district to pay the full amount that would have been saved by closing an elementary school if it votes to keep an elementary school open against the recommendation of the school administrative district board of directors. The bill also authorizes issuance of a Maine professional teacher certificate (rather than a two-year provisional certificate) to an experienced out-of-state teacher who has a certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Finally, the bill corrects several cross reference errors and a typographical error.

LD 1534**An Act to Facilitate the Transfer of Education Records for Students Transferring to Another Public School****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATSON PENDLETON	ONTP	

LD 1534 proposed to require that all student education records, including special education records, must be forwarded to the receiving school administrative unit by the sending school administrative unit when a student transfers to a new school. The bill also proposed to require school administrative units to send a written notice to parents and guardians