

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**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

Rep. James G. Skoglund

Rep. Elizabeth Watson

Rep. Christina L. Baker

Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman.

Rep. Irvin G. Belanger

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 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

before every school year indicating that records will be sent to the new school when a student applies for a transfer. This bill was given an ONTP committee report because this issue was addressed in another bill; see LD 1798.

LD 1553 **An Act to Amend the Definition of "Parent" in the Laws Governing Education** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	ONTP MAJ	
WHEELER G	OTP MIN	

LD 1553 proposed to amend the definition of "parent" in the laws governing education.

LD 1554 **An Act to Create a Professional Development Fund for Maine Teachers** **ONTP**

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

LD 1554 proposed to establish and fund the Fund for the Professional Development of Maine Teachers. The fund would have provided matching grants to school administrative units to be used for locally conceived professional development programs for teachers in order to better implement the system of learning results for public schools. The bill also proposed to establish standards by which applications for grants for professional development programs for teachers will be judged.

LD 1559 **An Act to Establish a Maine Student Leadership Pilot Program** **ONTP**

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

LD 1559 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposed to authorize the Department of Education to contract with tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations to provide nontraditional, experiential education programs designed to increase high school students' leadership, team-building, community service, environmental stewardship and ethical decision-making abilities. The bill proposed that the department develop a pilot program to test the process for determining how, how many and which high schools would be selected to participate in the program. A General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 was proposed in the bill for the Department of Education for the 2000-2001 biennium to implement the program.

LD 1561 **An Act to Require High School Students to Earn a Certificate of Mastery CARRIED OVER Before Graduating**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
AMERO		
MURPHY T		