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 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

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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
	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
	Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final pasage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP	
OTP ND	
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	
P&S XXX	
PUBLIC XXX	
RESOLVE XXX	
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.

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

Sponsor(s)	Committe	e Report	Amendments Adopted
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

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
AMERO		
MURPHY T		

LD 1561 proposes that all students in grade 12 be required to earn a certificate of mastery based on the State's learning results standards before graduating. The bill proposes that testing of students begin in the 2005-06 school year. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1558 Resolve, to Provide Incentives for School Breakfast Programs in Maine Public Schools

INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CATHCART		
ROWE		

LD 1558 was referred to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and proposed to establish a one-time grant program administered by the Department of Education to encourage schools that have a high percentage of their student body who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals to establish school breakfast programs. While this bill was ultimately indefinitely postponed, the substance of this bill, including a one-time General fund appropriation of \$240,000 in fiscal year 1999-00, was included in the Part II Budget bill (see P.L. 1999, c. 401, Part KK).

LD 1568 An Act to Require Parenting Skills to be Taught as Part of the High School Course of Instruction

ONTP

Sponsor(s) Committee Report
PERKINS ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1568 proposed to amend current high school course requirements in health, safety and physical education by requiring teaching of parenting skills.

LD 1609

An Act to Create Greater Equity in Representation Among Municipalities Belonging to School Administrative Districts and Ensure That All School Referendum Votes Are Preceded by a Public Hearing ONTP

Sponsor(s) Committee Report Amendments Adopted
LONGLEY ONTP

LD 1609 proposed to establish a limit on any method of apportioning voting strength among the municipalities represented on a board of directors for a school administrative district so that a municipality may not control more than 50% of the vote of a board of directors. LD 1609 also proposed applying the public hearing requirement that pertains to municipal referenda to school administrative district referenda as well.

LD 1621 An Act to Assist Maine Students

LONGLEY

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BRENNAN	ONTP	