

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
ONT P..... 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

of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 31, 2004. In the interim, the Department of Education is directed to monitor the impact of the new law and to report annually to the committee on its effect, and the Department of Education and the State Board of Education are charged with the responsibility of developing a system to provide assistance to school administrative units wishing or attempting to implement the law.

LD 1561

An Act to Require High School Students to Earn a Certificate of Mastery Before Graduating

ONTP

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

LD 1561 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed that, beginning in the 2005-06 school year, all students in grade level 12 must earn a certificate of mastery based on the State's learning results standards before graduating.

LD 1725

An Act to Allow the Towns of Wells and Ogunquit to Withdraw from Their Community School District

P & S 83

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE WHEELER G	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-531

LD 1725 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed to amend the Private and Special Law establishing the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District to allow either the Town of Wells or the Town of Ogunquit to withdraw from the district.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-531) is the majority report of the committee and replaced the bill. The amendment proposed changing the current formula for distribution of the costs for kindergarten through grade 12 education within the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District. As currently provided by law, the educational costs of the school district are apportioned between the 2 towns based entirely on relative property valuation. The amendment proposed a phased-in change beginning in fiscal year 2000-01 that will result after 3 years in a sharing of costs based 2/3 on property valuation and 1/3 on student population of the towns. After fiscal year 2002-03, the costs will continue to be shared 2/3 based on property valuation and 1/3 on student population unless each town approves an alternative sharing arrangement by majority vote.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 83 changes the current formula for distribution of the costs for kindergarten through grade 12 education within the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District. As currently provided by law, the educational costs of that school district are apportioned between the 2 towns based entirely on relative property valuation. The amendment provides for a phased-in change beginning in fiscal year 2000-01 that will result after 3 years in a sharing of costs based 2/3 on relative property

valuation and 1/3 on relative student population of the towns. After fiscal year 2002-03, the costs will continue to be shared 2/3 based on property valuation and 1/3 based on student population unless each town approves an alternative sharing arrangement by majority vote.

LD 1799

An Act Regarding the School Funding Formula

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
BRENNAN

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1799 was carried over from and proposed to ensure that pupil equity and taxpayer equity would be achieved through the school funding formula. This bill proposed the following.

1. It would have clarified that the statutory provisions requiring the state share of school construction debt service costs must be supported by General Fund appropriations by:
 - A. Indicating that the Legislature shall annually report the aggregate amount of the state share of the allocation for debt service costs as a separate line item and program account in the budget bill submitted to the Legislature for consideration; and
 - B. Indicating that the Legislature shall annually appropriate an amount to capitalize the state share of debt service costs that is separate from the appropriation for general purpose aid for local schools.
2. It would have suspended the annual updating of the income weight in the School Finance Act of 1995 by establishing that the income weight used in fiscal year 1997-98 must be used beginning in fiscal year 1999-00 and must remain fixed at the level of the median household income data reported in the United States Census data. Fiscal year 1997-98 median household income data must be used for the statewide component and for the local municipality component of income weighting for each fiscal year until fiscal year 2001-02 when the department would use the median household income data reported in the United States Census for 2000 report for each fiscal year until fiscal year 2011-12 when the data for the United States Census for 2010 must be used.
3. It would have replaced the so-called "cost-of-living adjustment" in the School Finance Act of 1995 with a regionalized cost-adjustment model that is based on a public education price index. The cost-adjustment model must be updated every three years. The Department of Education would have developed a regional education cost-adjustment model based on a public education price index and this new regionalized cost-adjustment model would replace the National Chamber of Commerce model beginning in fiscal year 2000-01.
4. It would have provided a \$25,000 General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education to develop a regional education cost-adjustment model based on a public education price index.
5. It would have provided a \$29,493,680 General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education to fully fund actual local program costs in the school funding formula.