

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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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 1759

Resolve, Creating a Commission to Study the Multicultural Education Needs of Maine Teachers to Ensure Multicultural Awareness and Understanding for All Maine Students

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKEE PARADIS	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 1759 proposed to create a special commission to study the multicultural needs of Maine teachers to ensure that multicultural awareness and understanding is brought to the attention of all students.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-319) proposed to change the composition of the Commission to Assess the Multicultural Education Needs of Maine Teachers and would reduce the membership from 11 members to nine members. Under this amendment, the commission could request that the Steering Committee of the Education Research Institute include the survey of Maine teachers as one of the targeted research projects of the research institute for fiscal year 1999-00. The amendment would also permit the commission to request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council and would allow the legislative member and public members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities whom they represent to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and a per diem for their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission.

LD 1761

An Act to Require that Tuition for Foster Children Attending a School in a Union be Paid by the State

ONTP

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

LD 1761 proposed to require the State to pay the school tuition costs for foster children placed in homes located in towns with a population of 200 or less that are members of a school union.

LD 1776

An Act to Establish a Standard Line-item Budget Format for All School Budgets

ONTP

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

LD 1776 proposed to change the school budget format from appropriating gross revenues to the school unit as a general rule to a procedure to implement a line-item budget format. This bill proposed to establish a uniform, 10-category line-item budget format that would apply to all school budgets, while retaining an authority for the voters to adopt alternative budget formats at referendum. The details of the line-item budget format would be developed by the Commissioner of Education through rulemaking. School units that had already adopted line-item formats would be grandfathered from any regulatory requirement to amend their formats. This bill also proposed to make explicit the detail of revenue, expenditure, enrollment and per pupil expenditure information that must be a part of the school budget documents.