

# 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**

***MEMBERS:***

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*Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.*

*Sen. Mary E. Small*

*Rep. Michael F. Brennan, Chair*

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***Staff:***

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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](http://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
- 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 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

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**

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