

# 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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**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](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:

*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.

1. One thousand dollars for students attending public institutions of higher education within the State;
2. One thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars for students attending private institutions of higher education within the State;
3. Five hundred dollars for students attending public institutions of higher education outside the State; and
4. One thousand dollars for students attending private institutions of higher education outside the State.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 233 restores the statutory provision that required student incentive scholarships awarded to students attending private institutions of higher education to be greater than the amount of scholarships awarded to students attending public institutions of higher education. Under this law, the minimum amount requirement of the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program is repealed and replaced with a minimum award provision that establishes a differential rate for minimum scholarship amounts that are based on the status of the higher education institution where the eligible student is enrolled. The varying minimum award amounts under the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program must be determined as follows:

1. One thousand dollars for students attending public institutions of higher education within the State;
2. One thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars for students attending private institutions of higher education within the State;
3. Five hundred dollars for students attending public institutions of higher education outside the State; and
4. One thousand dollars for students attending private institutions of higher education outside the State.

Chapter 233 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 18, 1999.

**LD 1815**                      **Resolve, to Create Grants for the Creation of After-school Child Care Programs in Public Elementary and Middle Schools**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'NEIL	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1815 proposed to establish a grant program in the Department of Education to assist school administrative units with the start-up costs of establishing after-school child care centers in public schools. Each school unit would be eligible for a grant of up to \$3,000 in either of the next two school years.

**LD 1826**                      **An Act to Adjust and Modify the School Funding Formula**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RUHLIN FISHER	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1826 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposed to replace the School Finance Act of 1985 and the School Finance Act of 1995 with a school funding formula that would be designed using the concepts contained

within the essential programs and services model developed by the State Board of Education's Essential Programs and Services Committee. To accomplish this purpose, this bill proposed to:

1. Replace the current school funding formula, found in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapters 606 and 606-A, with a new method for funding kindergarten to grade 12 public education based on the concepts contained in the essential programs and services model. The current method used to determine the resources necessary for financing education is based on the historical expenditures reported by school administrative units associated with providing public education. The basis for calculating education costs under the essential programs and services model would be the amount of resources necessary to permit each child to meet the standards established by the system of learning results;
2. Incorporate the concepts and components of the essential programs and services model recommended by the State Board of Education's Essential Programs and Services Committee in designing the new method for funding kindergarten to grade 12 public education. The new funding method would be based on the recommendations made by the Essential Programs and Services Committee, including:
  - A. The definition of essential programs and essential services;
  - B. The three prototypical school and grade configurations proposed for elementary, middle and secondary schools; and
  - C. A transition plan for implementing the new funding method based on the essential programs and services model; and
3. Require the State to pay local municipalities 55% of the total resources necessary to finance kindergarten to grade 12 public education under the new funding method based on the essential programs and services model.

**LD 1833**

**An Act to Require All Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 to be Bused to School**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
GERRY

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1833 proposed that all children in kindergarten and most students in grades one to three be bused to and from school regardless of the distance the children live from their schools. It proposed that kindergarten students must be picked up and dropped off at their residences. Children in grades one to three would have been required to be transported to within one block of their residences or could walk to school if their residences can be clearly seen from their schools.