

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

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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).

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 1834**An Act to Support Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
SKOGLUNDCommittee Report
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 1834 proposed to implement part of the recommendations of the Commission to Study Providing Educators with More Authority to Remove Violent Students from Educational Settings. The bill proposed to direct and provide funding for the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to schools in developing violence prevention and intervention training for educators, staff and students. The bill also proposed to establish a grant program to be administered by the Department of Education to support the establishment of conflict resolution and peer mediation programs in schools. Finally, the bill proposed to provide funding support for the Attorney General's Civil Rights Team Project (see also LD 1305).

LD 1863**An Act to Allow School Officials to Provide Information Regarding Certain Juveniles to Other Agencies****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
FULLER
CATHCARTCommittee Report
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 1863 proposed to amend current law to permit a school counselor or school social worker to disclose information about a juvenile who is an habitual truant, expelled from school, having behavioral problems or suspected of having committed a crime if, in the counselor's or social worker's judgment, the disclosure is not against the juvenile's best interests. The bill also proposed to require schools and school employees to disclose information for rehabilitative purposes to state and municipal agencies about a juvenile who is a habitual truant, expelled from school, having behavioral problems or suspected of having committed a crime (see also LD 1933).

LD 1875**An Act to Improve Access for Students with Learning Disabilities to the University of Maine System****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
KONTOSCommittee Report
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 1875 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposed to establish alternative admission requirements and criteria for learning disabled students to be used by the University of Maine System by investigating the current methods used and their effect on the admission of learning disabled students. It also proposed to require the examination of admission rates for learning disabled students and other students with special needs and the examination of the academic support services available to such students. Based upon that examination, this bill proposed to require the creation of evaluations other than grades and standardized testing to be used in determining admission.