

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.

Sen. Mary E. Small

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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 1951**Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study the Funding of and to Develop an Improved Decision-making Process for the Residential Treatment of Youth with Mental Health Issues**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKEE NUTTING J	ONTP	

LD 1951 proposed to establish the Task Force to Study the Funding of and to Develop an Improved Decision-making Process for the Residential Treatment of Youth with Mental Health Issues. The task force would have reviewed the current process and funding mechanism for the placement of youth with mental health issues into a residential treatment or day program and would have submitted its report along with any implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 1, 2000.

LD 1957**An Act to Require Reimbursement to Municipalities for the Education of Foster Children**

ONTP

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

LD 1957 proposed to require that each school administrative unit in the State provide funds for the education of each student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home in that school unit. Under this bill, the Commissioner of Education would provide 100% reimbursement in the year of allocation to a school unit for the actual local per pupil education expenditure and approved transportation costs for each student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home in that school unit. The Department of Human Services would transfer funds to the Department of Education to reimburse school units that provide a public education for each student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home in the State.

LD 1958**An Act to Establish Educational Excellence for the Towns of Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SNOWE-MELLO BENNETT	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 1958 proposed to modify the provisions of the special act of the Legislature enabling the towns of Poland, Minot and Mechanic Falls to combine to build a new school for grades seven to 12 in Poland to serve as the secondary school for all three towns. Under this bill, a governance structure would be established for the new school that would permit a joint committee, in its discretion, to pursue education reforms that could produce a better education for the students of those three communities. The bill also proposed to permit the joint committee to employ noncertified personnel on a limited basis and to employ or cease to employ personnel without the burdens presently imposed by tenure laws and contract grievance procedures. This bill further proposed to protect employees, however, by expressly requiring just cause for any personnel action involving nonrenewal of contract or termination of a principal or teacher. Finally, the bill proposed to permit the Town of Poland to charge tuition higher than the legal rate of tuition for secondary students coming from towns other than Minot or Mechanic Falls by agreement with the sending school unit.