

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**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

Rep. James G. Skoglund

Rep. Elizabeth Watson

Rep. Christina L. Baker

Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman.

Rep. Irvin G. Belanger

Rep. Mary Black Andrews

Rep. Carol Weston

Staff:

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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WESTON	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
-----------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------

LD 1964 proposes to establish the Charter School Authority to oversee the establishment, location and funding of charter schools throughout the State; to adopt a comprehensive charter school plan; to provide technical assistance for groups wishing to start a charter school; and to allocate funds for the creation of charter schools consistent with the plan. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PEAVEY MICHAUD	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-406 H-581 BRENNAN S-324 LAWRENCE S-410 MICHAUD
--	-----------------------------------	--

LD 1965 proposed establishment of the Maine Dental Education Loan Program under which the Finance Authority of Maine would award loans to Maine residents who have been accepted into dental school. Upon completion of the dental education, if the loan recipient elected to practice dentistry in an underserved area, a portion of the loan would be forgiven. The bill also proposed to establish a nonlapsing fund that would be used to recruit licensed dentists to serve in underserved areas by repaying portions of the dentists' education loans.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-406) proposed to expand application of the Maine Dental Education Loan Program established in the bill to offer loan forgiveness to assist a currently licensed dentist in paying off existing loans if the dentist practices dental medicine in an underserved population area. The amendment also proposed clarification of the loan default provisions of the program and addition of an appropriation section and fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-410) proposed to reduce the General Fund appropriation for the Maine Dental Education Loan Program in fiscal year 1999-00 to \$20,000 and eliminate General Fund support in fiscal year 2000-01. (Note: \$60,000 for FY 2000-01 is included in the Part II Budget, PL 1999, c. 401, Part NN.)

House Amendment "A" (H-581) proposed to change the manner of appointment of the 12 members of the Advisory Committee on Dental Education by providing for eight appointments by the presiding officers, two departmental appointments by the Commissioner of Human Services and two nonvoting appointments by the chief executive officer of the Finance Authority of Maine.

Senate Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A" (S-324) proposed to authorize the presiding officers to appoint members of the Advisory Committee on Dental Education from the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Oral Health Program and from the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services, while allowing the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine to make recommendations. It also proposed authorizing the presiding officers to appoint nonvoting members from the Finance Authority of Maine and from an office of primary health care.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 496 establishes the Maine Dental Education Loan Program under one aspect of which the Finance Authority of Maine would award loans of up to \$20,000 a year to Maine residents who have been accepted into