

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:

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Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. Mary E. Small

Rep. Michael F. Brennan, Chair

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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 1964**An Act to Establish the Charter School Authority****CARRIED OVER**Sponsor(s)
WESTONCommittee ReportAmendments Adopted

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.

LD 1965**An Act to Establish the Maine Dental Education Loan Program****PUBLIC 496**Sponsor(s)
PEAVEY
MICHAUDCommittee Report
OTP-AMAmendments Adopted
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

dental school. Up to three awards may be made in a year and a total of 12 may be active at one time. Upon completion of dental study, if the loan recipient practices dentistry in an underserved area, 25% of the loan will be forgiven for each year of such practice. A second aspect of the program will assist in repaying the loans of any dentist who practices in an underserved area at a rate of up to \$20,000 a year for up to four years. Under this law \$20,000 is appropriated for the program in 1999-00; and under the Part II Budget (P.L. 1999, c. 401, Part NN) \$60,000 is appropriated in 2000-01.

LD 1967 An Act to Assign Responsibility for Juveniles Who Are Not Receiving ONTP
Schooling

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

LD 1967 proposed to require a school that expels or suspends a student or places a student on early release to provide day-long supervision for the student during the period of expulsion, suspension or early release. The supervision requirement would also apply to habitual truants and dropouts. In the case of a student who has been expelled, suspended for more than 10% of a school semester's days or placed on early release or who is an habitual truant or dropout, the school would be required to notify the Department of Human Services and local law enforcement officials. The department and the student's parents would develop and implement a plan to meet the student's needs; and, if the needs included education in a different school administrative unit or private program, the student's current school administrative unit would be required to pay the cost of that education. LD 1967 also proposed to amend current law regarding school attendance, habitual truancy, exceptional students and appointment of surrogate parents to promote greater involvement with and responsibility for students with attendance or behavioral problems by parents, school officials, law enforcement officials and the Department of Human Services.

LD 1975 An Act to Promote Equitable Educational Opportunities ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL B	ONTP	

LD 1975 proposed to restore provisions of the School Finance Act of 1985 by repealing and amending several changes that have affected the equity of the school funding formula and that have been made in that Act in recent years. Specifically, this bill proposed to eliminate the 1990 reduction in state aid, the 1993 percentage reduction of the foundation allocation, the 1995 introduction of an income level and a cost-of-living adjustment into the formula and the replacement of operating costs with a per pupil guarantee.

LD 1976 An Act to Amend the Funding Formula Components that Determine the ONTP
State and Local Share of School Funding

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CATHCART DUNLAP	ONTP	

LD 1976 proposed to ensure that pupil equity and taxpayer equity are achieved through the school funding formula by guaranteeing that the State provides adequate state subsidies through the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program toward the total foundation allocation costs incurred by school administrative units, defined as the adjusted total of actual local operating costs and actual local program costs. To accomplish this purpose, this bill proposed to