

# 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***

***Rep. Shirley K. Richard***

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***Rep. Mary Black Andrews***

***Rep. Carol Weston***

***Staff:***

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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.

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 Schooling**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FULLER	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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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> MITCHELL B	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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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 State and Local Share of School Funding**                      **ONTP**

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