## 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 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

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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, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, 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
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
	Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final pasage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP	Bill Indefinitely PostponedOught Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND	
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	
P&S XXX	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX	
RESOLVE XXX	
	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** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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 State and Local Share of School Funding

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CATHCART	ONTP	
DUNLAP		

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

amend the funding formula components that determine the state and local share of operating costs and program cost allocations when the amount appropriated for the State's share of operating costs is less than 55% of total operating costs allocation and when the amount appropriated for the State's share of program costs is less than 60% of total program cost allocation. The bill also proposed to repeal the so-called "percentage rate" subsidy reduction method from the School Finance Act of 1985 and proposed to require that reductions in state funds be made by applying a mill rate subsidy reduction rather than a percentage rate subsidy reduction to each school administrative unit. The bill further proposed to remove the insured value factor from the maximum allowable tuition rate charged to a school administrative unit by a private school for enrolling secondary school students in private schools.

## LD 1978 An Act to Support the Graduate Education of Speech Pathologists for Maine Schools

**PUBLIC 441** 

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments AdoptedCATHCARTOTP-AMS-161

LD 1978 proposed to expand the current college student loan program for teachers to cover graduate study by speech pathologists seeking educational certification.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-161)** proposed a technical correction in the bill to carry out the intent of the bill to provide student loans only to persons pursuing postgraduate study in the field of speech pathology. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

#### Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 441 expands the current college student loan program for teachers to cover graduate study by speech pathologists seeking educational certification.

#### LD 2000 An Act to Establish the Position of Early Childhood Consultant

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BAKER	ONTP	
CATHCART		

LD 2000 proposed to establish the position of early childhood consultant within the Department of Education to provide statewide leadership, consultation and direction for early childhood and early elementary efforts and programs.

## LD 2026 An Act to Make Certain Provisions for Exceptional Students Consistent with Federal Laws and Regulations

**PUBLIC 424** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BRENNAN	OTP-AM	H-669

LD 2026, Part A proposed the following changes to the special education laws:

1. Amend part of the current definition of "exceptional student" with language consistent with federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and regulations defining the term "child with disability." The