

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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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 2080 proposed to provide statewide public school choice by authorizing students to enroll in a grade-level appropriate school in any school administrative unit in the State regardless of where the student lives. The bill proposed to replace current law that permits a school administrative unit to decide whether to enroll tuition students residing in other school administrative units. Under the bill, the sending school administrative unit would be responsible for payment of tuition to the school administrative unit on behalf of that student enrolled. In order to qualify to receive tuition payments, the receiving school would be required to notify the sending school of a student's enrollment in a school in the receiving unit by October 1st each year or within 30 days of enrollment. The student or the student's family would be responsible for providing transportation from home to a school in another school administrative unit. Students would be eligible for the full range of programs and activities offered by the school in which enrolled (see also LD 2170).

LD 2083

An Act Regarding Out-of-District Placement

ONTP

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

LD 2083 proposed that the State reimburse a school administrative unit for 100% of the unit's special education tuition and costs for an out-of-district placement approved by the Commissioner of Education. The bill proposed to require the Department of Education to appropriate funds for out-of-district special education placements to those school administrative units that have submitted supporting evaluative data justifying the placement of an exceptional student in an approved regional program.

LD 2170

An Act to Establish a School Voucher Program

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GLYNN	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 2170 proposed to provide statewide public school choice by authorizing students to enroll in a grade-level appropriate school in any school, public or private, in the State regardless of where the student lives. The bill proposed to replace current law that permits a school administrative unit to decide whether to enroll tuition students residing in other school administrative units. Under the bill, the sending school administrative unit would be responsible for payment of tuition to the school on behalf of that student enrolled. In order to qualify to receive tuition payments, the receiving school would be required to notify the sending school of a student's enrollment in a school in the receiving unit by October 1st each year or within 30 days of enrollment. The student or the student's family would be responsible for providing transportation from home to the school of the parents' choice. Students would be eligible for the full range of programs and activities offered by the school in which enrolled (see also LD 2080).

LD 2201

Resolve, to Establish the John H. Reed-Kenneth M. Curtis Peace Fellowship

**RESOLVE 71
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENNETT HEIDRICH	OTP-AM	S-195