

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

JULY 2000

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Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. Mary E. Small

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

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
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

student achievement in learning and writing, which is a major feature of the Maine Learning Results and the Maine Educational Assessment.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-859) proposed to decrease the amount appropriated to the Maine Writing Project from \$10,000 to \$5,000 and further proposed to require that the money appropriated must be supplemented by funds provided by the University of Maine System of \$4,500 in fiscal year 2000-01 in the form of scholarships for teachers in the Maine Writing Project.

The amendment also proposed to add a General Fund deappropriation of \$5,000 in fiscal year 2000-01 from the Professional Development program within the Department of Education and to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 78 decreases the amount appropriated to the Maine Writing Project from \$10,000 to \$5,000 and further requires that the money appropriated must be supplemented by funds provided by the University of Maine System of \$4,500 in fiscal year 2000-01 in the form of scholarships for teachers in the Maine Writing Project. The law also deappropriates \$5,000 in General Funds in fiscal year 2000-01 from the Professional Development program within the Department of Education.

LD 2425 An Act to Amend a Formula to Allocate Child Development Funds ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SULLIVAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2425 proposed to prohibit the Department of Education from adopting rules that decrease the amount of funding allocated to a Child Development Services Regional Site from the previous fiscal year. The prohibition on funding decreases would be retroactive to the effective date of Public Law 1999, chapter 296 that required the development of a funding formula for CDS sites and adoption of rules to implement the formula. The bill also proposed appropriating \$300,000 to Child Development Services System regional sites in York County to cover a shortfall in funding from the previous fiscal year.

LD 2429 An Act to Address the Teacher Shortage in Maine ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAVERDIERE		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2429 proposed to establish the Teachers for Critical and Qualifying Areas Program to provide for the repayment of student loans to teachers who are hired in schools that are faced with a shortage of teachers in certain academic areas. Once the Commissioner of Education makes the determination that a school is a critical area school or qualifying area school, a teacher hired by that school to work in the underserved academic area would have been eligible for repayment of student loans incurred for postsecondary education. A teacher working in a critical area school who works for 4 years in the school would have been

eligible to have 100% of the education loans repaid; a teacher who works in a qualifying area school for 4 years would have been eligible to have 50% of the education loans repaid.

LD 2440 **Resolve, to Equalize State Funding of Higher Education Programs within the University of Maine System** **ONTP**

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

LD 2440 proposed to require the University of Maine System to annually fund the School of Law at a rate comparable to the funding provided to other schools within the University of Maine System and proposed to provide funds for that purpose. Under current practice, the University of Maine School of Law is self-supported; that is, other than funding for the library, the cost of running the law school is paid through tuition. The School of Law is the only school within the University of Maine System where this is the case. While the “ought not pass” committee report on this bill was accepted, the supplemental appropriations bill included a provision requiring, by June 30, 2006, the University of Maine System to annually fund the School of Law at a rate comparable to the funding provided to other schools within the University of Maine (see Public Law 1999, chapter 731, part LLL, section LLL-1).

LD 2467 **An Act to Generate Economic Development Through Community Service and Education** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROWE LAWRENCE	OTP-AM	

LD 2467 proposed to provide a one-time appropriation of \$8,400,000 to the University of Maine System for technology and facility upgrades at university centers. The funds would have been used to increase student capacity at centers in economically disadvantaged communities across the State.

While this bill was indefinitely postponed, the supplemental appropriations bill included one-time funds in fiscal year 2000-01 for technology and facility upgrades as follows: \$9,000,000 for Aubert Hall at the University of Maine, \$3,500,000 for Lewiston-Auburn College, \$2,000,000 for the university center in Houlton, \$1,000,000 for the Northern Aroostook Technical Center, \$1,500,000 for University College of Bangor, and \$250,000 for the university center in Calais (see Public Law 1999, chapter 731, part A, section A-1). The supplemental appropriations bill also included \$1,300,000 in fiscal year 2000-01 to establish the Maine Technical College System’s Penquis facility, an education and training center in Dover-Foxcroft (see Public Law 1999, chapter 731, part A, section A-1).