

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.

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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

An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs Relating to the Review of the State Cultural and Other Agencies under the State Government Evaluation Act

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2661 proposed to implement the recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs as a result of the committee's review of state cultural agencies and other agencies under the State Government Evaluation Act. The bill proposed to:

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 706 implements the recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs as a result of the committee's review of state cultural agencies and other agencies under the State Government Evaluation Act. The law:

1. Repeals the law establishing the Maine Conservation School; the school will continue as a nonprofit corporation operating under general Maine law;
2. Reduces the term of members of the Maine State Museum Commission from 6 years to 4 years, establishes a 2-term limit for members and provides for the transition from the old law to the new law;
3. Repeals obsolete provisions and enacts an updated law governing the qualifications, appointment and duties of the State Historian;
4. Increases from \$40,000 to \$50,000 the cap on Percent for Art Program projects for public schools that elect to participate in the program; and
5. Provides for a separate annual budget line for the Maine Humanities Council.

An Act to Establish the Council on Children and Families and to Ensure the Continuation of the Governor's Children's Cabinet

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted
S-780 MICHAUD

LD 2679 proposed to establish the Council on Children and Families to advise the Governor, certain state departments, the Legislature and the judiciary regarding the following goals: to encourage a coordinated system of education and services for children and families, to evaluate the allocation of resources, to promote coordinated budgets and policy, to evaluate program effectiveness and to promote an informal information exchange. The proposed membership of 13 includes 5 commissioners of state departments, a judge and 7 Legislators. Staffing is proposed to be provided primarily by the Governor's office, which would also administer the budget. The bill further proposed to ensure that the Governor's Children's Cabinet, and the resultant collaboration on children's policy development and program implementation that

it has created, would continue beyond the end of the current administration. The proposal to codifying the Governor's Children's Cabinet in statute and endorse the expectation of interdepartmental program coordination and the use of so-called "pooled-flexible funds" to provide integrated programs and services to children and families was one of the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Implementation of Alternative Programs and Interventions for Violent and Chronically Disruptive Students.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-780) proposed to strike out sections of law that were repealed by Public Law 1999, chapter 668. The amendment proposed to add an emergency preamble and emergency clause, revise the limitations of appointments of members, limit Legislators serving on the Council on Children and Families to the period of their legislative term and insert an annual reporting date.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 785 establishes the Council on Children and Families to advise the Governor, certain state departments, the Legislature and the Judiciary regarding the following goals: to encourage a coordinated system of education and services for children and families, to evaluate the allocation of resources, to promote coordinated budgets and policy, to evaluate program effectiveness and to promote an informal information exchange. This law also ensures the continuation of the Governor's Children's Cabinet by codifying the cabinet in statute and endorsing the expectation of interdepartmental program coordination and the use of so-called "pooled-flexible funds" to provide integrated programs and services to children and families.

Public Law 1999, chapter 785 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 10, 2000.

LD 2690

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Review the Educational Program and the Governance System of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

PUBLIC 775

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2690 is the unanimous report of the committee pursuant to HP 1587. The bill proposed to make several changes to the governance system and the educational programs of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf. The bill proposed to amend the structure of the school board and to make a number of transition provisions to grant the school board greater autonomy in governing and operating the programs of the school. The bill proposed to accomplish the following.

1. It proposed to provide for a transition over a 2-year period to achieve greater autonomy from State Government; the proposed transition would be fully accomplished by July 1, 2002.
2. It proposed to require the Department of Education and the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf to adopt or amend rules related to funding the programs authorized by the school; and it proposed to permit the School Board of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf greater budget flexibility in operating the school.
3. It proposed to establish a School Board for the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature.