

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Education and Cultural Affairs*

August 2001

Members:

Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell, Chair

Sen. John M. Nutting

Sen. Margaret Rotundo

Rep. Shirley K. Richard, Chair

Rep. Mabel J. Desmond

Rep. James G. Skoglund

Rep. Elizabeth Watson

Rep. Stephen C. Estes

Rep. Glenn Cummings

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Rep. Mary Black Andrews

Rep. Carol Weston

Rep. Mary Ellen Ledwin

Rep. Donald G. Soctomah

Staff:

Phillip D. McCarthy, Legislative Analyst

Julie Read Marsh, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-1670



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

120th Legislature
First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 2001

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 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*
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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is **September 21, 2001**.

David E. Boulter, Director
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 182

An Act to Award High School Degrees to Certain Members of the Armed Services

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREADWELL YOUNGBLOOD	ONTP	

LD 182 proposed to permit a secondary school to award a diploma to a veteran whose secondary school education was interrupted by service in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II.

The substance of this bill was also addressed by other bills referred to the Education Committee (see LD 21, which was enacted as P.L. 2001, c. 85, and LD 282).

LD 215

An Act Regarding Out-of-district Placement

ONTP

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

LD 215 proposed to require the State to 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. Under this bill, the Department of Education would have been required 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 269

An Act to Implement the Recommendations Relating to Education Made by the Joint Study Committee to Study Bomb Threats in Maine Schools

**PUBLIC 67
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-94

LD 269 proposed to implement certain recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Study Committee to Study Bomb Threats in Maine Schools. The bill proposed to require the Department of Education to develop prototypical guidelines, policies and protocols for school administrative units to use in developing local responses to school bomb threats. The bill also proposed to require school boards to report bomb threats to the Commissioner of Education; to develop school bomb threat policies and protocols; and to include specific information addressing school bomb threat policies in their student handbooks.

Enacted law summary

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Public Law 2001, chapter 67 implements several recommendations of the Joint Study Committee to Study Bomb Threats in Maine Schools. The law requires the Department of Education to consult with certain state and local officials in developing prototypical guidelines, policies and protocols for school administrative units to use in developing local responses to school bomb threats. The law also requires school boards to report bomb threats to the Commissioner of Education; to develop school bomb threat policies and protocols consistent with the prototypical policy guidelines; and to include specific information addressing school bomb threat policies in their student handbooks.

Public Law 2001, chapter 67 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 2, 2001.

LD 282 **An Act to Award High School Diplomas to World War II Veterans** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLWELL LONGLEY	ONTP	

LD 282 proposed to permit a secondary school to award a diploma to a person who started secondary school between 1937 and 1946, left secondary school to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, did not receive a diploma as a consequence of this service and received an honorable discharge.

The substance of this bill was also addressed by other bills referred to the Education Committee (see LD 21, which was enacted as P.L. 2001, c. 85, and LD 182).

LD 291 **An Act to Require Teaching of Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine's Schools** **PUBLIC 403**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LORING CATHCART	OTP-AM	H-666

LD 291 proposed to require that Maine Native American history and culture be taught in all elementary and secondary schools and requires the Department of Education to include Maine Native American history and culture in the system of learning results. This bill proposed to establish a commission to investigate and recommend how the Department of Education will accomplish this task.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-666) proposed to require that Maine Native American history and culture be taught in all elementary and secondary schools. The amendment also proposed to establish a study commission to identify and explore available materials and resources for Maine educators to use in implementing these instructional areas. The amendment proposed to authorize the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission to carry out the study commission.

The amendment further proposed to require the study commission recommendations to include a plan to assist the Department of Education in helping school administrative units implement instruction in Maine Native American