MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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State Of Maine 120th Legislature

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

May 2002

<u>Members:</u> 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 Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman Rep. Mary Black Andrews

Rep. Mary Black Andrews Rep. Carol Weston Rep. Mary Ellen Ledwin

Rep. Donald G. Soctomah

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120th Legislature Second Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees May 2002

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 arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

CON RES XXX	
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	
	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	
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	
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	
P&S XXX	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX	
RESOLVE XXX	
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 July 25, 2002.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 1 An Act to Phase Out Community Income Considerations from the School Funding Formula

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
NUTTING J	ONTP	MAJ	_
LAVERDIERE	OTP	MIN	

LD 1 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed to phase out over a 3-year period the consideration of local median household income and proposed to increase by an equal percentage the reliance on property values in determining the local contribution portion of the school funding formula.

LD 466 An Act to Remove Liability from School Units When Releasing Information on School Employees Accused of Crimes

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
O'BRIEN J	ONTP	

LD 466 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed to allow a school administrative unit to release confidential information about an employee or former employee to another school administrative unit for the purpose of a reference for employment.

LD 475

An Act to Hold the Bureau of General Services Accountable for Services Provided for School Construction Projects

PUBLIC 506

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
NASS	OTP-AM	H-814
LONGLEY		

LD 475 proposed to specify that the fee assessed a school administrative unit by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services for services associated with a school construction project may not exceed \$15,000. The bill also proposed to require the Bureau of General Services to furnish reports to the project unit school board and the State Board of Education concerning the services provided on school construction projects.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-814) proposed to remove from the bill the \$15,000 cap on fees charged by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services for services associated with a school construction project. It also proposed to require the State Board of Education, the Bureau of General Services and the Department of Education to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by December 31, 2002 on the results of a survey to assess the level of satisfaction for school construction services provided by the bureau. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 506 requires the Bureau of General Services to furnish reports to the project unit school board and the State Board of Education concerning the services provided on school construction projects. It also requires the State Board of Education, the Bureau of General Services and the Department of Education to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by December 31, 2002 on the results of a survey to assess the level of satisfaction for school construction services provided by the Bureau of General Services.

LD 535 Resolve, to Examine the Doctorate-level Educational Opportunities RESOLVE 77 Available Through the University of Maine System

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DUNLAP	OTP-AM	H-813
NUTTING J		

LD 535 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed to provide annual General Fund appropriations of \$600,000 in fiscal year 2001-02 and fiscal year 2002-03 for the University of Maine to expand doctorate-level education opportunities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-813) proposed to change the title of the bill and strike and replace the bill with a resolve. The resolve proposed to direct the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to establish a review of doctorate-level educational opportunities provided through the University of Maine System and to provide a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2002. The resolve also proposed to authorize the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 121st Legislature to implement the findings of the program review. It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2001, chapter 77 directs the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to establish a review of doctorate-level educational opportunities provided through the University of Maine System and to provide a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2002. The resolve also authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 121st Legislature to implement the findings of the program review.