

# 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*

*Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman*

*Rep. Mary Black Andrews*

*Rep. Carol Weston*

*Rep. Mary Ellen Ledwin*

*Rep. Donald G. Soctomah*

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**Maine State Legislature**  
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**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](http://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 535**

**An Act to Expand Educational Opportunities**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNLAP NUTTING J		

LD 535 proposes 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. The bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 567**

**An Act to Financially Reward Maine Teachers Who Earn Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards**

**ONTP**

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

LD 567 proposed to provide General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 annually in fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03 to provide \$5,000 to a teacher who earns certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

**LD 604**

**An Act to Improve Education Service for Children with Disabilities**

**ONTP**

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

LD 604 proposed to specifically authorize the protection and advocacy agency designated by the Governor, charged with protecting and advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities, with the responsibility and authority for providing advice and representation to parents going through the special education process. The bill further proposed that any state funding made available for that purpose be appropriated to this agency.

Through the school funding formula, the State currently reimburses school districts for legal advice and representation in the special education process. Parents of children with special needs do not receive any state assistance in seeking their rights under federal and state special education laws.

**LD 605**

**An Act to Improve Opportunities for Recruitment of Teachers**

**ONTP**

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

## Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 605 proposed to create a state fund to provide a subsidy of up to \$2,000 per district to help schools hire teachers for hard-to-fill positions. The bill proposed to set a minimum teacher salary of 1.5 times the federal poverty level for a family of 3 with an additional \$2,000 differential for teachers with master's degrees. The bill also proposed to establish the Maine Teachers Student Loan Forgiveness Program as an additional incentive for teachers to teach in schools in this State.

**LD 621**                      **An Act to Protect a Child's Right to Bike and Walk to School**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COWGER	ONTP      MAJ	
SAWYER	OTP      MIN	

LD 621 proposed to prohibit school boards from banning students from bicycling or walking to school. The bill also proposed to require school construction projects to provide bicycle and pedestrian access to buildings, as well as adequate, secure and convenient bicycle parking.

**LD 622**                      **An Act to Eliminate the Use of Tobacco in Maine Schools and on School Grounds**                      **DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE	OTP-AM      MAJ	H-123
GAGNON	ONTP      MIN	

LD 622 proposed to prohibit smoking in schools and on the grounds of any elementary or secondary school, including a recreational playing field or athletic facility.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-123)** proposed to correct an error in the title and clarify that the prohibition on the use of tobacco would apply to buildings owned or leased or contracted for by an elementary or secondary school.

**LD 627**                      **An Act to Expand the Definition of School Construction to Include Renovation and Expansion of Existing Facilities**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARRACHE	ONTP	
GAGNON		

LD 627 proposed to expand the definition of school construction projects to include renovations or expansions to existing schools.