

# 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*

**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](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 732**

**An Act to Encourage Maine's Best and Brightest Students to  
Continue their Education in the State of Maine**

**DIED IN  
CONCURRENCE**

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

LD 732 proposed to mandate that any Maine high school student who graduates with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0 is automatically admitted to any state postsecondary educational institution.

**LD 750**

**Resolve, to Promote Ethnic Diversity and Maine's French Heritage**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MENDROS	ONTP      MAJ	
LAFOUNTAIN	OTP-AM    MIN	

LD 750 proposed to require the Department of Education to conduct a pilot project to promote ethnic diversity and Maine's French heritage, including the teaching of French, in kindergartens in communities with strong French ties and history.

**LD 754**

**Resolve, to Study the Feasibility of a 4-year Vocational Educational  
Program**

**DIED ON  
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ANNIS	OTP-AM	H-191
DAVIS P		

LD 754 proposed to require that vocational centers and regions provide a 4-year vocational education program for high school students and adults.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-191)** proposed to change the bill to a resolve, changes its title and replaces the bill.

The amendment would have created a commission to study the feasibility of establishing a 4-year vocational education program that would have been composed of 3 members of the House of Representatives and 3 members of the Senate. The duties of the commission were to review any applicable studies on this subject previously conducted in the State, review and assess 4-year vocational education programs in other states, determine the need for such a program in Maine in each of the trade groups and review issues related to the start-up of such a program including issues of access, choices of curricula, scheduling, consistency with goals of the statewide system of learning results, questions of capacity and coordination and any other issues considered relevant by the commission.

## Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

The amendment also proposed to direct the commission to establish a stakeholder group to assist and advise the commission during its study and directs the commission to report its findings to the Legislature by December 6, 2001.

**LD 766**

**Resolve, to Improve Child Development Services**

**DIED BETWEEN  
BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER	OTP-AM    MAJ	H-662
MITCHELL B	OTP-AM    MIN	

LD 766, which was jointly referred to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee and Health and Human Services Committee, proposed to transfer responsibility for administering the Child Development Services System from the Department of Education to the Department of Human Services, effective July 1, 2002.

In the House the bill was finally passed as amended by Committee Amendment A; and the Senate initially engrossed it with the same amendment. Later the Senate indefinitely postponed the bill and it died between the houses on adjournment. At the end of the session, the Education Committee, by letter, requested that the Commissioner of Education report to the committee next session with appropriate recommendation for the improvement of early intervention and special education services for children up to age 6, including changes in CDS System structure and funding.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-662)**, the majority report of the committees, proposed to replace the bill and convert it to a resolve. The amendment proposed that the Commissioner of Education review the current delivery of services and develop a plan for reorganization of the provision of child development services required under federal law to children from birth to under 6 years of age throughout the State. The plan would have provided for centralized administration of the system for. In the process of developing the plan, the department was directed to consult with the Department of Human Services and Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. To provide required services in a timely manner, the plan would have established regional sites.

A 6-member legislative subcommittee was proposed to advise the Commissioner of Education in developing the plan. The subcommittee would have consisted of members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The commissioner and subcommittee were directed to use the services of outside consultants from national organizations in reviewing the current system and developing the reorganization plan.

The commissioner was to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 15, 2002. The report would have included the proposed reorganization plan, provisions for implementation by July 1, 2002, including transition issues and proposed implementing legislation. The joint standing committees were authorized to introduce legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature to implement the plan.

The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.