

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

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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, 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
PASSED	Joint Order passed in both bodies
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 July 25, 2002.

Patrick T. Norton, Interim Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 889

An Act to Establish a Mandated Minimum for Teachers' Salaries

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER MICHAUD MH	ONTP	

LD 889 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed to establish a mandatory minimum salary of \$25,000 for certified teachers and to provide a block grant of \$800 per teacher to each school administrative unit for teachers' salaries.

LD 1089

An Act to Improve Taxpayer Equity in School Funding

ONTP

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

LD 1089 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed to increase the weight of the income factor in the school funding formula from 15% to 25%. This bill also proposed to use the cost-of-living factor to adjust a municipality's property values. This bill further proposed to require the State to use a school unit's weighted relative fiscal capacity to calculate a unit's local share of program costs.

LD 1471

**An Act to Create a Digital Library to Meet the Educational,
Research, Business and Economic Needs of Maine**

PUBLIC 522

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROSEN EDMONDS		H-767

LD 1471 was referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. This bill proposed to provide an annual General Fund appropriation of \$2,500,000 to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to be used for the creation of a digital library collection to support its educational, research and public service missions.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-767) proposed to strike and replace the bill. The amendment proposed to make changes to the provisions of law that address the uses and guidelines for the telecommunications education access fund. Specifically the amendment proposed to accomplish the following:

1. Authorize the Raymond H. Fogler Library at the University of Maine as a qualified recipient of telecommunications education access funds;
2. Require the Public Utilities Commission to order the National Exchange Carrier Association to transfer \$500,000 from the unexpended balance of the telecommunications education access fund no later than