

# 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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**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 1183**                      **Resolve, to Establish a Political Education Program**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TRACY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1183 proposed to direct the Department of Education to develop a political education program, based upon the education programs sponsored by the National Assembly of Quebec, to introduce the political system of the State to students and the general public and to enhance their understanding of how State Government works and affects our surroundings.

**LD 1184**                      **An Act to Guarantee Hot Lunches for Maine Students**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAEL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1184 proposed to require all public secondary schools to participate in the National School Lunch Program. This bill also proposed to correct a cross-reference.

**LD 1214**                      **An Act to Encourage the Use of Locally Grown Foods in School Food Service Programs**                      **PUBLIC 447**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KILKELLY VOLENIK		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP      MAJ OTP-AM    MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-174    KILKELLY S-391    GOLDTHWAIT
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LD 1214 proposed to provide a one dollar state match for every three dollars spent by a school administrative unit on local produce for that unit's food service programs.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-134)** proposed to add a \$37,200 appropriation to the bill to fund the state match.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-391)** proposed to specify that the type of foods eligible for state match is produce or minimally processed foods purchased directly from a farmer or farmers' cooperative in the State.

### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 2001, chapter 447 provides a one dollar match for every 3 dollars a school administrative unit spends on produce or minimally processed foods purchased directly from a farmer or farmers' cooperative in the State. The term "minimally processed" is defined to mean only the washing, cleaning, trimming, drying, sorting and packaging of food items or a combination of those activities. This law establishes an Other Special Revenue account and provides that authorization for use of matching funds is contingent on the receipt of revenue from public or private sources by the Department of Education for this purpose. The law also allocates \$500 in fiscal

## Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

year 2002-03 to the Local Produce Fund to allow reimbursement of locally grown produce contingent on the receipt of additional funds by the Department of Education.

**LD 1223**                      **An Act to Allow a School Board to Suspend a Student for Rest of Term for Violent Behavior**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAVIS G DAVIS P		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1223 proposed to increase the number of days the school board may authorize the principal to suspend a student for the balance of the semester, trimester or quarter, whichever is used in the school.

Current law allows a school board to authorize a principal to suspend a student who behaves in a violent manner for a maximum of 10 days.

**LD 1234**                      **An Act to Strengthen the State's Truancy Law**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> POVICH		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1234 proposed to require the superintendent to convene a formal hearing if the superintendent is unable to resolve a truancy informally. Under the proposed bill, referral of a truancy to the school board would have been eliminated. In addition, the bill proposed that if a parent of a student determined to be habitually truant after a hearing failed to correct the truancy, the parent would have committed a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 would be assessed.

Current law requires the principal of a truant student to inform the superintendent of the school administrative unit or school union when the principal determines that the student is truant. If the problem can not be resolved informally, the matter is referred to the school board for a formal hearing. A parent of a truant student commits a civil violation if that parent is primarily responsible for the truancy.

**LD 1239**                      **Resolve, to Direct the Department of Education to Synchronize Secondary School Calendars with the Vocational Schools**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> THOMAS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1239 proposed to direct the Department of Education to review secondary and vocational education school calendars to ensure that schools have the same student instructional days.