

State Of Maine 120th Legislature

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

August 2001

<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. 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, <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:

CARRIED OVER	Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
CON RES XXX Ch	Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session hapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	
	ccepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
	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 REFORE THE BODY	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers: hill died
INDEF PP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed Ought Not To Pass report accepted
<i>OTP ND</i>	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	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*.

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 1223An Act to Allow a School Board to Suspend a Student for Rest of
Term for Violent BehaviorONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAVIS G	ONTP	_
DAVIS P		

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.

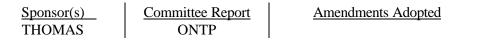
LD 1234	An Act to Strengthen the State's Truancy Law	ONTP
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Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
POVICH	ONTP	

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 ONTP Secondary School Calendars with the Vocational Schools



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.