

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:

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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).

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 1318

An Act to Improve the Academic Climate in Schools

ONTP

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

LD 1318 proposed to change the compulsory school attendance requirement from 7 years of age or older and under 17 years of age to 6 years of age or older and under 16 years of age.

This bill also proposed to improve the academic focus of schools by requiring earlier entry to school. It further proposed to remove the negativity associated with the truancy issues of older teens who often detract from the academic atmosphere of the school.

LD 1341

An Act to Permit the Submission of Citizens' Initiatives and Citizens' Vetoes to School Districts

ONTP

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

LD 1341 proposed to provide for a direct initiative and people's veto process for school policies and rules, except those that pertain to staffing or salary matters, any other personnel matters or any budgetary matters, to be exercised by the voters of any school administrative unit. As proposed, the processes established would have been similar to those available under the Constitution of Maine for initiation and veto of legislation by the voters of the State.

LD 1359

An Act to Ensure Safe and Healthy Schools

ONTP

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

LD 1359 proposed to provide several measures to address urgent health and safety issues in school facilities in the State. The bill proposed to accomplish the following.

1. Raise the maximum limit for debt service costs in fiscal year 2005 from \$84,000,000 to \$88,000,000, and for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, establish the maximum limit for debt service costs at \$92,000,000 and \$96,000,000, respectively.
2. Require the State Board of Education to hold harmless school administrative units for those school construction projects that were rated as a priority under a major capital improvement program, but did not receive state board approval due to the debt service limits for school construction projects. Under the proposed bill, school administrative units that received revolving renovation funds to remediate a first priority status health, safety

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and compliance problem that was part of the school construction project that was rated a priority would be held harmless in the following rating cycle for a major capital improvement program.

3. Provide that the Commissioner of Education may request transfers from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for school facility emergencies that became known after the priority rating list and funding approval decisions have been made for the current period of the major capital improvement program.

LD 1360 **Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study Improving Economic Opportunities for Maine People Through Higher Education Attainment** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BENNETT	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1360 proposed to establish a task force to examine the continuing education levels and training required for people in the current work force to assist them in obtaining high-skill, high-wage jobs in the State.

LD 1377 **An Act to Credit a Town for Payment from Local Funds for School Construction** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LONGLEY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1377 proposed to require that a school administrative unit that was authorized to issue securities for a nonstate-funded school construction project receive credit for the sum total of principal and interest costs paid from local funds without state participation at such time as the unit's project is approved for funding by the State Board of Education. Under this proposed bill, the school administrative unit would have been authorized to include principal and interest costs paid from local funds in the unit's debt service costs for state subsidy purposes. The bill also proposed to authorize the State Board of Education to adopt rules to carry out this purpose.

LD 1383 **An Act to Provide Additional Funding for the Geographic Isolation Adjustment** **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WOODCOCK MENDROS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-195
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LD 1383 proposed to provide funding to fully fund the geographic isolation adjustment to the school funding formula and proposed to establish the Task Force to Study the Geographic Isolation Adjustment of the School Funding Formula and Other Geographic Isolation Issues to study and report on issues, especially in the area of school funding, for those geographically isolated island and inland communities.