

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

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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).

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
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Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

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>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENNETT	ONTP	

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>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LONGLEY	ONTP	

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>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOODCOCK	OTP-AM MAJ	S-195
MENDROS	ONTP MIN	

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.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Committee Amendment "A" (S-195) was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment proposed to strike and replace the bill with an appropriation to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program in the Department of Education so that additional funding could be allocated to the geographic isolation adjustment to the school funding formula above and beyond the funds already included in the current services budget for fiscal year 2001-02 and fiscal year 2002-03. The amendment also proposed to replace the emergency preamble and the emergency clause and further proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill. (Not adopted)

The substance of this bill and the committee amendment were addressed in the Part II budget (see P.L. 2001, c. 439, Part DDDD). Additional General Fund appropriations of \$75,000 for fiscal year 2001-02 and \$100,000 for fiscal year 2002-03 were included as supplemental allocations for the geographic isolation adjustment to the school funding formula.

LD 1390 An Act to Reinstate the Cost-of-living Factor in the School Funding Formula ONTP

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

LD 1390 proposed to reinstate the use of a cost-of-living factor in the school funding formula.

LD 1393 An Act to Enhance the Professional Skills of Maine's Educational Technicians PUBLIC 98

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MATTHEWS	OTP-AM	H-190

LD 1393 proposed to require that the rules used in defining the qualifications of educational technicians must recognize work experience credits earned through completion of apprenticeship programs offered by the Department of Labor.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-190) proposed to require that the Commissioner of Education recognize applicable work experience credits earned through work apprenticeship programs offered by the Department of Labor when certifying educational technicians.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 98 requires that the rules used in defining the qualifications of educational technicians must recognize applicable work experience credits earned through completion of apprenticeship programs offered by the Department of Labor.