

# 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 1548**

**An Act to Amend the School Funding Formula by Adding a Hold-harmless Provision**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1548 proposed to provide an ongoing hold-harmless provision for the general purpose aid for local schools program. The bill proposed to require that, beginning in fiscal year 2001-02 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Legislature provide each school administrative unit with at least the same share of state subsidy that it received for fiscal year 2000-01 for operating costs, program costs, excluding the state share of bus purchases, and minimum subsidy.

**LD 1553**

**An Act to Provide Funding for Education**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1553 proposed to accomplish the following.

1. Establish a postsecondary enrollment grant program to be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. Under this program, a Maine high school graduate enrolled in an associate degree program at a public or private institution of higher education in the State would receive a grant of \$2,000 per year and a Maine high school graduate enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a public or private institution of higher education in the State would receive a grant of \$4,000 per year.
2. Provide a supplemental appropriation of \$139,656,122 to the general purpose aid to local schools program in fiscal year 2000-01 to fully fund the 55% state share of the total allocation for costs incurred by school administrative units, defined as the total of the foundation allocation and the debt service allocation.
3. Eliminate the so-called "percentage reduction method" from the School Finance Act of 1985. Under this bill, the state share of school funding would have returned to 55% of the cost of the total allocation.
4. Direct the Legislature to review the plan proposed by the State Board of Education for implementing a new school funding formula based on the Essential Programs and Services model developed by the board's Essential Programs and Services Committee, require the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to review the Essential Programs and Services plan and authorize the committee to introduce legislation during the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature to replace the existing school funding formula with a new school funding formula based on the Essential Programs and Services model.