

# 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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**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](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 1762**

**An Act to Address Maine's School Facilities Needs**

**DIED ON  
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DESMOND TREAT	OTP-AM	H-645

LD 1762 proposed to raise the debt service limit for school facilities bonds for fiscal year 2005-06 and fiscal year 2006-07 in order to increase the quantity of school construction and major renovation projects that can be approved in concept by the State Board of Education to go forward during 2002, 2003 and 2004 with bond repayments to impact those fiscal years. The bill also proposed to refine the provisions relating to the School Revolving Renovation Fund to permit funds to be provided in the future for basic structural repairs, learning space upgrades and other improvements.

The bill further proposed to direct the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to make rules to "hold harmless" in the 2001-2002 rating cycle certain school construction project applications from the 1999-2000 rating cycle that have made interim health and safety improvements prior to submitting a reapplication for the 2001-2002 rating cycle. The bill also proposed to direct the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to amend the rules governing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to increase flexibility and efficiency by providing that the maximum loan amount for a school building may be set at a level other than \$1,000,000 under certain circumstances.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-645)** proposed to eliminate the removal of underground oil storage tanks on the grounds of a school building from the list of eligible school repairs and renovations that can receive first priority status from the School Revolving Renovation Fund. The amendment also proposed to reduce the amount that must be appropriated, allocated or repaid to the School Revolving Renovation Fund before permitting funds to be provided in the future for basic structural repairs, learning space upgrades and other improvements.

The amendment further proposed to direct the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to evaluate the impact of the amendment to rules governing school construction projects that established a "hold harmless" provision in the 2001-2002 rating cycle for certain school construction project applications from the 1999-2000 rating cycle that have made interim health and safety improvements prior to submitting a reapplication for the 2001-2002 rating cycle and to report their findings, together with recommendations regarding the establishment of an ongoing hold harmless provision in the rules governing school construction projects, to the joint standing committee of the legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by January 15, 2003.

Finally, the amendment proposed to direct the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to amend the rules governing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to increase flexibility and efficiency by providing that the maximum loan amount for a school building may be set at a level not to exceed \$3,000,000 under certain circumstances. It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

While this bill as amended died on adjournment, the Part II budget bill included similar provisions to those contained in the bill as amended by the committee amendment (see P.L. 2001, c. 439, Part OOOO).