

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Education and Cultural Affairs*

July 2003

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i>	<i>Bills carried over to the 2nd Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP-ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 56 encourages each political subdivision and school administrative unit to observe a Maine Week of Heroes, during the week within which September 11th occurs, to honor the efforts of heroic people in Maine communities.

LD 499

**An Act To Allow a Parent To Choose Not To Vaccinate a Child
against Chicken Pox for School Attendance**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
MCNEIL

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 499 proposed to allow a parent to choose not to immunize a child against chicken pox, which is a requirement for enrollment in elementary and secondary school in the State effective for the start of 2003 school year.

LD 527

**An Act To Improve the Method of Reapportionment of School
Boards**

**PUBLIC 57
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
NUTTING
GAGNON

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 527 proposed to provide additional options to the board of directors of a school administrative district that is instituting an approved reapportionment plan that requires a reduction in the number of directors to be elected to represent a member municipality. Under current law, if a school administrative district requires reapportionment that results in a reduction in the number of directors, all of the directors choose by lot which directors' terms terminate. To avoid the necessity of the existing directors representing the municipality having to cast lots to determine which director or directors position should be terminated in accordance with the reapportionment plan, the bill proposed to allow one or more directors to voluntarily resign to achieve the necessary reduction and proposed to allow the municipality to reduce the number of open positions prior to election.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 57 provides two additional options to the board of directors of a school administrative district that is instituting an approved reapportionment plan that requires a reduction in the number of directors to be elected to represent a member municipality. To avoid the necessity of the existing directors representing the municipality having to cast lots to determine which director or directors position shall terminate in accordance with the reapportionment plan, the law allows one or more directors to voluntarily resign to achieve the necessary reduction and allows the municipality to reduce the number of open positions prior to election.

Public Law 2003, chapter 57 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 18, 2003.