

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Education and Cultural Affairs*

July 2003

Staff:

*Phillip D. McCarthy, Legislative Analyst
Nicole A. Dube, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670*

Members:

*Sen. Neria R. Douglass, Chair
Sen. Michael F. Brennan
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

*Rep. Glenn Cummings, Chair
Rep. Rosita Gagne-Friel
Rep. Jacqueline Norton
Rep. Jonathan Thomas
Rep. Edward D. Finch
Rep. Jeremy Fischer
Rep. Thomas W. Murphy, Jr.
Rep. Mary Black Andrews
Rep. Mary Ellen Ledwin
Rep. Gerald M. Davis*

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

who would appoint 5 and 6 members respectively. The amendment proposed to authorize the task force to hold up to 4 meetings. It also proposed to allow public members of the task force to receive a per diem upon a demonstration of financial hardship and to change the reporting date from December 10, 2003 to December 3, 2003.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2003, chapter 84 establishes the Task Force to Study the Needs of Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Children and Adolescents. The task force is composed of 4 legislators, 11 members of the public, the Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Behavioral and Developmental Services. The task force is authorized to meet up to 4 times and is required to submit a report, including suggested legislation, to the 2nd Regular Session of the 121st Legislature no later than December 3, 2003.

LD 592 **An Act Regarding Age Eligibility for Enrollment in a Public Secondary School** **PUBLIC 116 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN MARLEY	OTP	

LD 592 proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Education to waive on a case-by-case basis age requirements to allow students who have reached 20 years of age before the start of the school year to enroll as public secondary school students.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 116 authorizes the Commissioner of Education to waive, on a case-by-case basis, age requirements to allow students who have reached 20 years of age before the start of the school year to enroll as public secondary school students.

Public Law 2003, chapter 116 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2003.

LD 597 **An Act To Establish a Community College System in Maine** **ONTP**

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

LD 597 proposed to transform the Maine Technical College System into the Maine Community College System and provide funds necessary to support the transition to a comprehensive community college system.

The substance of this bill was also addressed by another bill referred to the Education Committee (see LD 1369) and was enacted as part of the Part I budget bill (see LD 1319, which was enacted as P.L. 2003, c. 20, Part OO).

LD 624 **Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Use Money for** **ONTP**

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

School Transportation Costs for Payment of School Crossing Guards

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

LD 624 proposed to require the Department of Education to adopt major substantive rules for the apportionment of money for school transportation costs to pay for school crossing guards.

LD 628 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Develop RESOLVE 10
Guidelines for Outdoor Playground Surfaces

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TRAHAN HALL	OTP-AM	H-150

LD 628, a resolve, proposed to require the Department of Education to adopt policy standards for outdoor playground surfaces at public schools.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-150) proposed to change the title and proposed to strike and replace the original resolve with a resolve that would require the Department of Education to develop and communicate policy guidelines for outdoor playground surfaces at public schools.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2003, chapter 10 requires the Department of Education to develop and communicate policy guidelines for outdoor playground surfaces at public schools.

LD 641 An Act To Implement a Recommendation of the Commission on ONTP
Fatherhood Issues Related to Parental Notice of School Activities
and Programs

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

Current law provides that, upon written request and with the agreement of both the custodial parent and the school administrative unit, a school may provide written notification of all school activities and programs for which parental participation, involvement, notification or awareness is in the best interest of the student. LD 641 proposed to implement one of the recommendations of the Commission on Fatherhood Issues related to the notification provided to a noncustodial parent regarding that parent's child's school activities and programs. Under this proposed bill, a school administrative unit must provide a noncustodial parent with written notification of the child's school activities and programs when the noncustodial parent submits a copy of a court order awarding