

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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Sen. Michael F. Brennan
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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
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Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 1302

An Act To Expand Access to Higher Education

ONTP

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

LD 1302, which was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to use existing infrastructure and technology available in this State for distance learning as well as improvements to this infrastructure and technology to expand access to higher education for the citizens of this State. The bill proposed to seek to provide access to and the benefits of higher education provided by the institutions of higher learning in this State to the citizens of Maine in their own communities through the use of technology.

LD 1303

An Act To Provide for Full State Funding for Special Education Costs

ONTP

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

LD 1303 proposed to provide that the general purpose aid for local schools program would provide state subsidy for 100% of the actual special education costs incurred by each school administrative unit in the State. Under this bill, the Commissioner of Education would be required to adjust each school administrative unit's state share of state subsidy to include an amount that equals 100% of the unit's actual special education costs, including the unit's personnel costs, to provide special education services and special education costs for state wards, state agency clients and out-of-district placements. The bill also proposed to provide an additional amount of General Fund appropriations for the general purpose aid for local schools program to fully fund the local share of actual local special education costs.

LD 1340

An Act To Amend the Educators for Maine Program

PUBLIC 427

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

LD 1340 proposed to make modifications to the Educators for Maine Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. The proposed modifications would allow for uniform administration of the program by integrating and coordinating amendments that have been made over several years. The proposed changes would also allow for consistent treatment for all undergraduate candidates, notwithstanding their course of study. The bill proposed to accomplish the following.

1. It proposed to repeal the existing definition section and replace it with updated definitions. New definitions are proposed to be added for "child care provider qualifications," "cost of attendance" and "undergraduate." The definition of "preservice" was proposed to be removed because all loan recipients now are required to show an interest in providing return service.