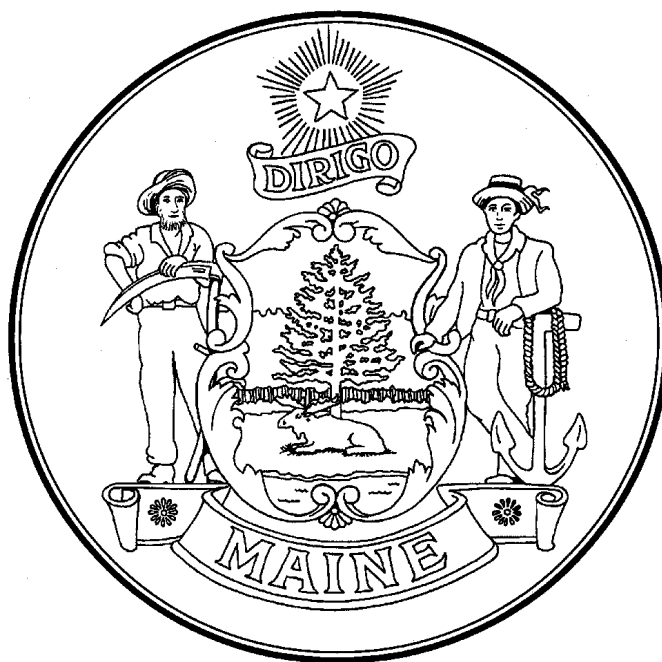


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

*Second Regular Session and
Second Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Education and Cultural Affairs*

May 2004

Members:

Sen. Neria R. Douglass, Chair

Sen. Michael F. Brennan

Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

Rep. Glenn A. Cummings, Chair

Rep. Rosita Gagne-Friel

Rep. Jacqueline R. Norton

Rep. Jonathan Thomas

Rep. Edward D. Finch

Rep. Jeremy Fischer

Rep. Mary Black Andrews

Rep. Thomas W. Murphy, Jr.

Rep. Mary Ellen Ledwin

Rep. Gerald M. Davis

Staff:

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Augusta, ME 04333

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Maine State Legislature

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

121st Maine Legislature Second Regular Session and Second Special 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/billsumm.htm).

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:

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
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is April 30, 2004; and non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Special Session is July 30, 2004. Four bills (LD's 1572, 1629, 1636 and 1637) that were considered at the First Special Session in August 2003 are also included in these summaries.

David C. Elliott, Director

Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 1871

Resolve, To Provide for the Reorganization of the Student Loan Repayment and Forgiveness Programs To Better Meet the Needs of Maine Employers and the Maine Economy

ONTP

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

LD 1871 proposed to require the Department of Education and the Finance Authority of Maine to work together to develop and present to the First Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature legislation to convert higher education loan forgiveness programs to loan repayment programs. The legislation also proposed to streamline the State's loan repayment programs and maintain the State's commitment to current loan repayment and forgiveness program participants.

At the end of the session, the Education Committee, by letter, requested that the Finance Authority of Maine report to the committee during the First Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature on its study of the implications of reorganizing existing student loan repayment and forgiveness programs to better meet the needs of Maine employers and the Maine economy.

LD 1885

An Act To Ensure Competitive Bidding for Maine's School Systems

ONTP

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

LD 1885 proposed to allow a school administrative unit to solicit competitive bids for goods or services at any time.

During the session, the Education Committee, by letter, requested that the Commissioner of Education communicate with school superintendents about the need to remain vigilant in their expenditure of public resources in achieving effective and efficient public schools; and to inform school officials that schools were eligible to participate in certain state-level purchasing opportunities through the Division of Purchases.