

# 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*

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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](http://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 1953**

**An Act To Validate Certain Proceedings Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Notes by the Calais School District**

**P & S 42  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERRY A SHOREY	OTP	

LD 1953 proposed to validate a referendum vote on the Calais High School and Calais Elementary School construction and renovation project conducted on June 24, 2003 and proposed to authorize the Calais School District to issue bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness in connection with that project. The proposed bill is needed to resolve a legal technicality that could prevent the issuance of additional bonds for the project in that the warrant for the 2nd referendum vote on the project was posted 6 days before the referendum rather than 7 days before the referendum vote as required by the Maine Revised Statutes.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Private and Special Law 2003, chapter 42 validates a referendum vote on the Calais High School and Calais Elementary School construction and renovation project conducted on June 24, 2003 and authorizes the Calais School District to issue bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness in connection with that project. The law is needed to cure a legal defect that could prevent the issuance of additional bonds for the project. The warrant for the 2nd referendum vote on the project was posted 6 days before the referendum rather than 7 days before the referendum vote as required by the Maine Revised Statutes.

Private and Special Law 2003, chapter 42 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 9, 2004.

**LD 1956**

**An Act To Establish a School Leadership District for East Millinocket, Medway and Millinocket**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1956 proposed to establish School Leadership District #1, comprising the municipalities of East Millinocket, Medway and Millinocket. The new district would be a 5-year pilot project of school restructuring as a means of more effectively meeting the learning needs and improving the academic performance of all students as sanctioned by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 8. The bill proposed that the district be governed by a board consisting of the school boards currently in East Millinocket, Medway and Millinocket. As proposed in the bill, the board of SLD #1 would be established and would be authorized to hire a superintendent, establish a budget and curriculum and enter into lending and leasing agreements. The costs of employment of the superintendent would be divided equally among the participating municipalities; and all other costs would be apportioned among the participating municipalities based on property values, population and student enrollment.