

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and
First Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Education and Cultural Affairs*

August 2005

Members:

Sen. Elizabeth H. Mitchell, Chair

Sen. Elizabeth M. Schneider

Sen. Karl W. Turner

Rep. Jacqueline R. Norton, Chair

Rep. Edward D. Finch

Rep. Elaine Makas

Rep. Emily Ann Cain

Rep. Connie Goldman

Rep. Barbara E. Merrill

Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman

Rep. Gerald M. Davis

Rep. Peter Edgecomb

Rep. Scott E. Lansley

Staff:

Phillip D. McCarthy, Legislative Analyst

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Maine State Legislature

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122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 organized by committees 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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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:

- CARRIED OVER Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
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
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
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 the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 1061

An Act To Improve the Recruitment of Teachers

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS P		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1061 proposed to:

1. Set the minimum salaries of teachers at 1.5 times the federal poverty threshold;
2. Set the minimum salaries of teachers who possess master's degrees or higher at 1.5 times the federal poverty threshold plus \$2,000;
3. Establish the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program to provide funds to forgive loans incurred at Maine postsecondary schools by teachers who teach in the State; and
4. Establish the Vacant Teaching Position Fund to provide funds to subsidize school administrative units that cannot fill needed teaching positions by September 1st.

LD 1062

An Act To Provide Financial Accommodation under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act for School Systems with Dead-end Bus Runs

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WOODCOCK SAVIELLO		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1062 proposed to provide for counting the mileage for both directions of a dead-end bus run in determining the funding for the transportation component of public school costs under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.

LD 1088

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Review Specific Testing Requirements for Student Advancement

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JACKSON MARTIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1088 proposed to direct the Department of Education to review the state law and department rules related to specific testing requirements for student advancement and to consider establishing an alternate requirement for student advancement.