

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
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

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-1670



Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY & LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Room 215 Cross State Office Building
Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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 1349 **An Act To Encourage Neighborhood Schools and To Minimize Sprawl Caused by School Siting** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PIOTTI MILLS P		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
--	--	-------------------------	--	---------------------------

LD 1349 proposed to encourage the building of schools only in areas of a municipality that already are served or will be served by a public infrastructure, such as sewer and water systems, sidewalks and bicycle paths. It proposed to allow the State Board of Education to approve school construction only if the site is within an area that is a designated growth area, an area served by a public sewer system, a census-designated place or a compact area. For a site meeting none of these criteria, the bill proposed to require adoption of a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance by the municipality before the state board may approve a project. This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to any special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 1381 **An Act To Update Teachers' Minimum Salaries** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MITCHELL DAVIS G		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
--	--	-------------------------	--	---------------------------

LD 1381 proposed to update the law that established a minimum teachers' salary, starting in 1987, of \$15,500, an amount that is now outdated and proposed to increase the amount to \$30,000. The bill also proposed to establish a method for future periodic updating of the minimum salary amount and proposed to outline procedures for the distribution of funds for teachers' salaries. This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to any special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 1386 **An Act Concerning Town Academies and the System of Learning Results** **ONTP**

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

LD 1386 proposed to accomplish the following:

1. Change "New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools" to "New England Association of Schools and Colleges" to reflect its new name;
2. Define "town academy" as a private school approved for tuition that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students and that is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges;

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

- 3. Clarify the existing law concerning compliance by schools with the system of learning results by specifying what town academies must use for measuring compliance in lieu of the local assessment system used in public schools; and
- 4. Add a reference in the essential programs and services law to the current law governing the maximum allowable tuition rate that may be charged by private schools for students educated at public expense.

LD 1387 Resolve, To Promote Training Centers for Entrepreneurship CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RICHARDSON J MITCHELL	OTP-AM	H-482

LD 1387 proposes including entrepreneurship education principles in the next review of the system of learning results. It proposes requiring the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System to develop an entrepreneurship curriculum to be implemented at all University of Maine System and Maine Community College System campuses and to market community colleges as training centers for business owners and operators. This resolve also proposes establishing the Entrepreneurship Education Task Force comprised of the Commissioner of Education, Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System. It proposes requiring the task force to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than February 1, 2006.

This resolve proposes directing the Maine Community College System to implement a statewide entrepreneurship training program that covers key aspects of starting a business, and including an appropriation of \$370,000 over 2 years to fund the program and make the program available to the widest possible audience.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-482) proposes changing the title of the resolve and removing the directives for curriculum development. It proposes requiring that the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System to review course offerings relating to entrepreneurship and to promote their campuses as entrepreneur training centers. It proposes removing all directives to the Commissioner of Education regarding entrepreneurship at the elementary and secondary levels.

This bill and its adopted amendments were carried over on the Special Appropriations Table by S.P. 640 to the next special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 1397 An Act Regarding the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ANDREWS MOULTON	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1397 proposed to change the formula for computing each town's assessment for the expenses of the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District. The current formula bases 67% of the assessments on state valuation and 33% on the number of resident pupils in each town. The formula would have been changed over a 3-year period