

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Education and Cultural Affairs*

July 2006

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. Vaughn A. Stedman

Rep. Gerald M. Davis

Rep. Peter Edgecomb

Rep. Scott E. Lansley

Rep. Barbara E. Merrill

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Maine State Legislature



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122nd Maine Legislature Second 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 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 (Pocket Veto).....	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 August 23, 2006.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senate Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A” (S-666) proposed to replace the resolve as amended by Committee Amendment “A”. It proposed to require that the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System review course offerings relating to entrepreneurship and promote their campuses as entrepreneur training centers. It also proposed to require the Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System to meet regularly to review entrepreneurship education within elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools and to report on the state of entrepreneurship education in the State to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs no later than February 1, 2007.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2005, chapter 210 requires that the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System review course offerings relating to entrepreneurship and promote their campuses as entrepreneur training centers. The resolve also requires the Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System to meet regularly to review entrepreneurship education within elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools and to report on the state of entrepreneurship education in the State to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs no later than February 1, 2007.

LD 1425

An Act To Support the Efficient Implementation of Maine's Learning Results

PUBLIC 593

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUMMINGS	OTP-AM MAJ	H-913
WESTON	ONTP MIN	

LD 1425, which was carried over by H.P. 1203 to any special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature, proposed to provide financial support to existing nongovernmental education organizations that create and manage statewide and regional networks that provide Maine learning results implementation support and services to Maine educators and school systems.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-913), which was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to strike and replace the bill to accomplish the following.

1. It proposed to alter the requirement that the Department of Education provide technical assistance to school administrative units in establishing their local assessment systems to clarify that the department should provide technical assistance in using assessments to inform teaching and learning.
2. It proposed to establish a moratorium for the 2006-2007 school year for those local assessment system activities that are designed to certify student achievement and clarifies that assessments that are used to inform teaching and learning are exempt from the moratorium.
3. It proposed to clarify that the moratorium established for the 2006-2007 school year for certain activities within each school administrative unit's local assessment system would not affect other statutory requirements related to the implementation of the system of learning results.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

4. It proposed to provide that the Department of Education should establish quality standards for the comprehensive state and local assessment system.
5. It proposed to provide that, for fiscal year 2006-07, the Commissioner of Education could expend and disburse up to \$1,000,000 of the \$2,000,000 appropriated by the Legislature to carry out the purposes of Public Law 1995, chapter 649, sections 6 and 7 to provide targeted professional development or technical assistance to increase the capacity of school administrative units to implement the system of learning results.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 593 amends the statutory requirements related to the local assessment system that school administrative units must comply with in implementing the system of learning results. The law accomplishes the following.

1. It alters the requirement that the Department of Education provide technical assistance to school administrative units in establishing their local assessment systems to clarify that the department shall provide technical assistance in using assessments to inform teaching and learning.
2. It establishes a moratorium for the 2006-2007 school year for those local assessment system activities that are designed to certify student achievement and clarifies that assessments that are used to inform teaching and learning are exempt from the moratorium.
3. It clarifies that the moratorium established for the 2006-2007 school year for certain activities within each school administrative unit's local assessment system does not affect other statutory requirements related to the implementation of the system of learning results.
4. It provides that the Department of Education shall establish quality standards for the comprehensive state and local assessment system.
5. It provides that, for fiscal year 2006-07, the Commissioner of Education may expend and disburse up to \$1,000,000 of the \$2,000,000 appropriated by the Legislature to carry out the purposes of Public Law 1995, chapter 649, sections 6 and 7 to provide targeted professional development or technical assistance to increase the capacity of school administrative units to implement the system of learning results.

LD 1640

An Act To Permit Charter Schools in Maine

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
WESTON

Committee Report
ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MIN

Amendments Adopted

LD 1640, which was carried over by H.P. 1203 to any special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature, proposed to allow certain educational bodies to approve the establishment of charter schools, a new type of public school, to be a part of the State's program of public education. The charter school pilot program proposed to be established under this bill would permit up to 20 charter schools to be authorized during a 10-year pilot phase. A charter school would be approved for a renewable 5-year term, with a major review of the operations and achievements of the charter school prior to renewal.