

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
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

July 2007

MEMBERS:

SEN. PETER B. BOWMAN, CHAIR
SEN. ELIZABETH H. MITCHELL
SEN. PETER MILLS

REP. JACQUELINE R. NORTON, CHAIR
REP. EDWARD D. FINCH
REP. ELAINE MAKAS
REP. DAVID W. FARRINGTON
REP. CHARLES WILLIAM HARLOW
REP. PATRICIA B. SUTHERLAND
REP. PETER EDGECOMB
REP. HOWARD E. MCFADDEN
REP. ROBERTA M. MUSE
REP. MEREDITH N. STRANG BURGESS

STAFF:

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JILL IPPOLITI, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

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 (or Accepted ONTP report).....	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 non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This bill defines "public preschool program" in the laws governing education. This definition differentiates a public preschool program from a one- or two-year kindergarten program. The bill also integrates approval of early childhood education plans for programs for children 4 years of age into the laws governing basic school approval.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 141 amends the definition of a "public preschool program" in the laws governing education to differentiate a public preschool program from a one- or two-year kindergarten program. The law also integrates approval of early childhood education plans for programs for children 4 years of age into the laws governing basic school approval.

LD 614 An Act To Modify the Essential Programs and Services Formula To Aid Rural School Districts ONTP

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill seeks to modify the essential programs and services school funding formula to aid rural school districts by changing the adjustment in the formula made for salaries and benefits received by school personnel.

LD 672 An Act To Strengthen the Scientific Research Support Capability of the Maine State Museum CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL		S-42

LD 672 makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$62,754 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$87,747 in fiscal year 2008-09 to the Maine State Museum for one Museum Specialist III position beginning October 1, 2007 in order to allow 2 half-time Ph.D. scientists currently sharing one full-time position to both work full-time.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-42)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

LD 791 An Act To Ensure Equitable Geographic Representation on the State Board of Education PUBLIC 179

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAYE	OTP-AM	S-107 RAYE S-43

This bill changes the composition of the State Board of Education by requiring that membership of the board be broadly representative of the geographic regions of the State and of municipalities of varying sizes.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-43)

This amendment strikes the requirement in the bill regarding changes to the composition of the State Board of Education related to broad representation of municipalities of varying sizes, but retains the requirement that the

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

composition of the State Board of Education must be broadly representative of the geographic regions of the State. The amendment also clarifies that the residency requirement for members appointed to the State Board of Education is limited to their residency at the time of their appointment. The amendment further provides that the members serving on the State Board of Education at the time of the effective date of this Act continue to serve for the remainder of the terms for which they were appointed and, after the expiration of those terms, that the appointment of State Board of Education members must be made consistent with the provisions of this Act.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-107)

This amendment retains language in the bill that provides that the membership of the State Board of Education must be broadly representative of municipalities of varying sizes.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 179 changes the composition of the State Board of Education by requiring that membership of the board be broadly representative of the geographic regions of the State and of municipalities of varying sizes.

LD 821 Resolve, To Make University of Maine System Tuition Affordable **ONTP**

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

This resolve is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This emergency resolve proposes to direct the University of Maine System to reduce by 10% the salaries of all administrative positions within the system and to use those savings to lower tuition for Maine resident students.

LD 834 Resolve, To Create a Study Commission To Review and Report on the Possibility of Making All Public School Teachers in Maine Employees of the State **ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOTHAM MILLS P	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

This resolve establishes the Commission to Review and Report on the Possibility of Making All Public School Teachers in Maine Employees of the State.

LD 835 An Act To Encourage School Administrative Units To Collaborate with Other School Administrative Units **ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to provide the opportunity for current school administrative units to form regional cooperatives to aid in the efficient delivery of educational services while maintaining a high-quality educational system for students, teachers, community members and schools. The bill would balance the independence of the legislative bodies of school administrative units and local control with the efficient delivery of administrative services for schools while enhancing the educational programs provided for prekindergarten to grade 12 public education students in the State.