

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2007

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# STATE OF MAINE

123<sup>RD</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> 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***

**LD 979      An Act To Adjust the Calculation of the Essential Programs and Services Pupil Count to Accurately Reflect Population Change      ONTP**

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

This bill amends the pupil count calculation in determining school operating costs for essential programs and services by calculating the greatest of the 6 pupil counts for April 1st and October 1st of the 3 most recent calendar years prior to funding, as opposed to the average of the 2 and 6 pupil counts for April 1st and October 1st of the most recent calendar year prior to funding.

**LD 985      An Act To Include Family Life Skills in the System of Learning Results      ONTP**

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

LD 985 includes family life skills, including but not limited to financial skills such as budgeting and personal finance, health care choices and family dynamics, in the system of learning results.

**LD 1013      An Act To Offer Tuition Waivers for State Higher Education Facilities to Eligible Veterans      ONTP**

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

This bill establishes a tuition waiver for veterans at state postsecondary educational institutions. Under the bill, the Finance Authority of Maine will administer the tuition waiver program, as it currently does under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapters 429 and 429-A. The authority is given rulemaking powers to define "veteran" and to establish how many tuition waivers are available each year at each state postsecondary educational institution.

**LD 1020      An Act To Renew the Promise of Higher Education      **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT****

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BARTLETT	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-97

This bill allows a person who has a gross family income of less than \$50,000 a year to attend any institution within the Maine Community College System free from tuition charges.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-97)**

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment establishes the Maine's Promise Grant Program, a need-based grant program to eliminate the unmet need and the necessity of student loans that would otherwise present a significant financial barrier to resident students from low-income households to enrolling in an associate degree program or a baccalaureate degree program at a

***Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs***

public institution of higher education in this State for one year. The purpose of the grant program is to allow students whose reported annual family income is at or below the established federal poverty level to enroll in an associate degree program or a baccalaureate degree program free of tuition and fee charges for one year in the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System or at Maine Maritime Academy. The amendment provides that a person is eligible for a grant under the program if the person:

1. Is a Maine resident who has graduated from an approved secondary school in the State or has successfully completed a high school equivalency diploma or its equivalent in the State;
2. Has been accepted for enrollment as an undergraduate in an eligible program of study and has not received a previous associate degree or baccalaureate degree;
3. Has completed an application for federal student financial aid programs and any institutional student financial aid programs for which the person may be eligible and an application for the Maine State Grant Program; and
4. Has a reported annual family income that is at or below the established federal poverty level as certified by the Finance Authority of Maine.

**LD 1025      An Act To Reform Essential Programs and Services**

**ONTP**

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

This bill accomplishes the following:

1. It directs the Department of Education to develop and post on its publicly accessible website a clear and logically organized description of how the cost of the components of essential programs and services is calculated;
2. It directs the department to develop a methodology that allows each major component of a school administrative unit's budget to be readily compared with the comparable component of the unit's required contribution established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688, subsection 3-A; and
3. It requires a school administrative unit, in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Education, to provide an opportunity for voters within the unit to vote separately on each major component of the unit's budget as it compares with the comparable component of the unit's required contribution established under Title 20-A, section 15688, subsection 3-A.

**LD 1040      Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Encourage School Administrative Units To Encourage Secondary School Students To Apply to College**

**RESOLVE 122**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUMMINGS MITCHELL	OTP-AM	H-180      HANLEY S S-100      DIAMOND

This bill requires secondary school students to complete at least one application to a postsecondary educational institution.

**House Amendment "A" (H-180)**