

# 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***

equity of higher education opportunity and promoted equitable cost-sharing for all Mainers?

The resolve also provides that the review panel shall present its report, including findings, recommendations and any necessary legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 31, 2008. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill based on the report presented pursuant to this resolve to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

**LD 1123      Resolve, Relating to the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District**

**RESOLVE 129**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BOWMAN	OTP-AM   MAJ ONTP    MIN	S-175

This bill changes the formula for computing each town's assessment for the expenses of the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District. The current formula bases 66.7% of the assessments on state valuation and 33.3% on the number of resident pupils in each town. The formula is changed so that the assessments are based on 67% of the number of resident pupils and 33% on the assessment of state valuation. This bill also removes language that permits the towns to agree to change the formula by separate majority vote in each town and that requires a withdrawal from the community school district to be authorized by special act of the Legislature.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-175)**

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and requires the Town of Ogunquit and the Town of Wells or their representatives to negotiate in good faith in order to reach a settlement of the dispute between the towns regarding the formula for computing each town's assessment for the total expenses of the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District. The amendment also requires that the towns present a report, including findings and recommendations regarding changes to the formula for apportionment of kindergarten-to-grade-12 education costs of the school district, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 5, 2007. Finally, the amendment provides that the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature regarding its recommendations on the report submitted by the towns to settle this dispute.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2007, chapter 129 requires the Town of Ogunquit and the Town of Wells or their representatives to negotiate in good faith in order to reach a settlement of the dispute between the towns regarding the formula for computing each town's assessment for the total expenses of the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District. The resolve also requires that the towns present a report, including findings and recommendations regarding changes to the formula for apportionment of kindergarten-to-grade-12 education costs of the school district, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 5, 2007. Finally, the resolve provides that the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature regarding its recommendations on the report submitted by the towns to settle this dispute.

**LD 1152      An Act To Improve Public Education in Maine**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NORTON BOWMAN		