

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
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

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

July 2013

MEMBERS:

SEN. REBECCA J. MILLETT, CHAIR
SEN. CHRISTOPHER K. JOHNSON
SEN. BRIAN D. LANGLEY

REP. W. BRUCE MACDONALD, CHAIR
REP. MARY P. NELSON
REP. HELEN RANKIN
REP. MATTHEA DAUGHTRY
REP. BRIAN L. HUBBELL
REP. VICTORIA P. KORNFIELD
REP. PETER B. JOHNSON
REP. JOYCE A. MAKER
REP. MICHAEL D. MCCLELLAN
REP. MATTHEW G. POULIOT
REP. MADONNA M. SOCTOMAH

STAFF:

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JON CLARK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

STATE OF MAINE

126TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD 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 LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

CARRIED OVER carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES.....House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX.....chapter # of enacted public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature is October 9, 2013. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Under current law, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy are required to report on the number of remedial courses taken by students from each school administrative unit in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics. This bill requires those institutions to report the cost to the students of those remedial courses, by school administrative unit, and requires the Commissioner of Education to reduce state subsidy to the school administrative units and to pay those funds to the higher education institution. Those higher education institutions are required to use the funds to reduce or eliminate the cost of remedial courses to their students and to report to the Commissioner of Education and the Legislature how those funds were used to achieve the reduction or elimination of costs.

LD 1526 An Act To Include Debt Service for Local School Construction Projects ONTP
in the Required Local Share of Education Funding

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY N KATZ	ONTP	

This bill includes in debt services for purposes of the school funding formula locally funded major capital projects for school construction that are not approved by the State Board of Education.

**LD 1529 An Act To Expand School Choice for Maine Students ACCEPTED
MAJORITY
(ONTP) REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON G JOHNSON P	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill expands the publicly funded educational choices available to Maine students in several ways. It allows colleges and universities to authorize public charter schools and removes the 10-school limit on public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission. The bill also allows private sectarian schools to receive public funds as long as they comply with standards applicable to other private schools.

The bill allows funding to be used to enable economically disadvantaged students to take advantage of school choice options available under current law. The funds may be used to pay for transportation and tuition for students who transfer to other public or private schools and to pay for room and board costs of a student attending a public charter school that is beyond a reasonable commuting distance from the student's home. Currently, this funding may be used only for students enrolled in the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, which is designated as the State's Center of Excellence for At-risk Students.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-313)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 1530 An Act To Establish a Process for the Implementation of Universal CARRIED OVER
Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODALL BERRY		

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This bill requires implementation of universal voluntary prekindergarten education by the 2017-2018 school year. The Commissioner of Education is required to establish a stakeholder group to work with the commissioner and interested parties to establish a plan to implement the requirement. The stakeholder group is required to develop standards for prekindergarten education programs, recommend uniform statewide procedures for screening children and assessing program performance and recommend best practices to coordinate early childhood education programs with child care providers. The commissioner is required to submit a report of the work of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2014, and the committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature regarding the report. The bill also clarifies the role of the State Board of Education with regard to prekindergarten education, changes the compulsory age for school attendance from 7 years of age to 5 years of age beginning July 1, 2016 and provides that funding provided to a school administrative unit for prekindergarten purposes may not be used for other purposes. The bill provides that the Commissioner of Education must provide implementation grants and provides funds for those grants and for a position in the Department of Education to oversee early childhood education programs.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

LD 1533 An Act To Establish the Maine Online Learning Collaborative

**VETO
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND	OTP-AM	S-302

This bill amends the laws governing the Maine Online Learning Program by:

1. Including an online learning provider's demonstrated experience in collaborating with schools to develop innovative practices related to online learning as a basis for approval of the online learning provider by the Department of Education;
2. Requiring an online learning provider to reapply for approval annually;
3. Allowing courses offered by online learning providers to be of varying lengths and worth varying amounts of credit;
4. Requiring an online learning provider to use surveys approved by the department to gauge the satisfaction of its students with the online learning provider and the courses offered by that online learning provider and the department to provide the results of these surveys to the Legislature; and
5. Establishing the Maine Online Learning Program Reimbursement Fund to provide funds to a school administrative unit for the cost of courses provided by an online learning provider to students in that school administrative unit. The bill establishes eligibility requirements, guaranteed reimbursement allocations, dollar amount limits and procedures for carrying over unused allocations. The fund is funded by a transfer of the balance of funds remaining in the Maine Learning Technology Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-302)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill and amends the laws governing the Maine Online Learning Program by adding 2 provisions to the goals of the program that would enable students to meet the standards of the system of learning results and that would augment the capacity of teachers who are certified in the State to provide high-quality online and blended learning experiences for students. The amendment strikes the provisions in the bill that propose to establish the Maine Online Learning Program Reimbursement Fund