

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

May 2014

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STATE OF MAINE
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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

provide their feedback on the department's plan for the phase-in of the universal availability of public preschool programs and the department's current partnership with other states and researchers in a consortium to establish a state-of-the-art system for assessing children's learning from kindergarten entry to grade three. It requires the commissioner to submit a report, including a summary of the work of the stakeholder group and an outline of the department's proposed rules to implement the universal availability of public preschool programs by the 2018-2019 school year, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 3, 2014.

LD 1579 An Act To Authorize Public Safety Personnel and Members of the Military To Wear Their Uniforms When Visiting Schools in Their Official Capacities PUBLIC 450

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN BURNS	OTP-AM	H-594 H-597 MACDONALD W

This bill requires publicly supported secondary schools and secondary public charter schools to adopt and implement policies ensuring that members of the United States Armed Forces or the Maine National Guard and public safety personnel, including but not limited to firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, game wardens and park rangers, may wear their uniforms when visiting schools in their official capacities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-594)

This amendment explicitly adds forest rangers to the list of public safety personnel in the bill.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-597)

This amendment, like the bill, as amended by the committee amendment, ensures the ability of members of the military and public safety personnel to wear their uniforms when visiting certain publicly supported schools in their official capacities. Unlike the bill, as amended by the committee amendment, which requires school boards to adopt policies ensuring this ability, this amendment provides that such persons may not be denied access to a publicly supported secondary school or secondary public charter school solely because they are wearing their uniforms.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 450 ensures the ability of members of the military and public safety personnel to wear their uniforms when visiting publicly supported schools in their official capacities. The law provides that such persons may not be denied access to publicly supported secondary school or secondary public charter school solely because they are wearing their uniforms.

LD 1591 An Act To Amend the Process Controlling the Transfer of a Student between School Administrative Units PUBLIC 456

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL	OTP-AM	H-612

Under current law, a student or the parent of a student may request a transfer to a school administrative unit in which the student does not reside. The superintendents of both the sending and the receiving school administrative units may approve the transfer if they find that it is in the best interests of the student. The decision is appealable to the Commissioner of Education, who may approve or disapprove the transfer. That decision is appealable to the State Board of Education, which may approve or disapprove the transfer.

This bill provides a standard for what constitutes a student's best interest. The bill requires that, if the decision of