

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

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

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STATE OF MAINE

128TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions of the 128th 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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

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 dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128th Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. 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

Committee Amendment "B" (H-605)

This amendment was the unanimous report of the Committee during the Second Regular Session. It changes the bill's proposal to allow the withdrawal committee of a municipality petitioning to withdraw from a regional school unit to petition the Commissioner of Education to order binding mediation between the parties if they fail to enter into an agreement within 180 days after the formation of the withdrawal committee. The amendment instead allows the withdrawal committee to petition the commissioner to order mediation between the parties if they fail to enter into an agreement within 180 days. If the parties fail to enter into an agreement within 90 days after the commissioner orders mediation, the withdrawal committee may petition the commissioner to order binding mediation between the parties.

The amendment also provides that the referendum vote to approve the proposed agreement of withdrawal must be held before November 30th of the year prior to the proposed first year of operation of the schools of the petitioning municipality.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "B" (H-637)

This amendment exempts from the authorization to petition for mediation or binding mediation withdrawal committees from member municipalities in School Administrative District No. 6 and School Administrative District No. 44.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1492 An Act To Attract, Educate and Retain New Mainers To Strengthen the Workforce Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ R STEWART H	OTP-AM ONTP	S-368

This bill was reported out of committee and then recommitted to the committee in the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature; it was then carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P 1138. This bill was reported out of committee in the Second Regular Session, placed on the Special Appropriations Table, and then carried over on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order S.P. 748.

This bill creates various programs to attract, educate and retain in the State's workforce immigrant populations in the following ways.

1. It creates the Office of New Mainers and the Office of New Mainers Advisory Committee to coordinate among various departments by developing a comprehensive plan to educate and train immigrant populations to fill needed positions of employers throughout the State.
2. It establishes the Welcome Center Initiative to operate welcome centers in adult education programs to attract, educate and retain in employment foreign-trained workers in municipalities or regions of the State that have immigrant populations or that have industries that are experiencing a shortage of trained workers, patterned after the New Mainers Welcome Center operated by the City of Portland adult education program through a pilot program created by the 126th Legislature.
3. It establishes three grant programs to:
 - A. Contract with service providers to provide English-language instruction, vocational training and placement of

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

immigrants in the State with employers of the State;

B. Assist counties, municipalities and school administrative units in managing new immigrant populations that have settled within the counties, municipalities and school administrative units or in attracting immigrant populations to address depopulation or workforce shortages within the counties, municipalities and school administrative units; and

C. Award grants to adult education programs to increase English-language acquisition instruction in communities experiencing an increase in immigrant populations.

4. It expands the Welcome Center Initiative to the City of Lewiston's adult education program to attract, educate and retain in employment foreign-trained workers residing in Androscoggin County, patterned after the New Mainers Welcome Center in Portland.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-195)

This amendment was the majority report of the committee for the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

This amendment removes the Office of New Mainers and the Office of New Mainers Advisory Committee from the bill and removes all references to both offices. It adds proposed welcome centers to the purpose for which adult education program grants may be given. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-225)

This amendment replaces the appropriations and allocations section in Committee Amendment "A."

This amendment reduces the appropriations in the bill from \$745,000 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$285,000 in fiscal year 2018-19 to \$340,000 and \$410,000, respectively.

This amendment was not adopted.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-368)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee to the Second Regular Session and is substantially similar to Committee Amendment "A" as amended by Senate Amendment "A."

This amendment removes the Office of New Mainers and the Office of New Mainers Advisory Committee from the bill and removes all references to both offices. It adds proposed welcome centers to the purpose for which adult education program grants may be given. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section and clarifies that the newly created local community planning support program and the newly created vocation-specific English-language acquisition and workforce training program are intended to be two-year programs. Because the second year of each program is in the next biennium, the intent of the majority of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs is that the following funding be provided in fiscal year 2019-20: \$75,000 in ongoing funds to the adult education program for the expansion of the Welcome Center Initiative within the City of Lewiston's adult education program; \$85,000 for grants to adult education programs to increase English-language acquisition instruction in communities experiencing an increase in immigrant populations; \$40,000 for the local community planning support program to manage newly settled immigrant populations or to attract immigrant populations; and \$160,000 for grants to service providers to provide English-language instruction and vocational training for 200 participants.