

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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## 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 129<sup>th</sup> 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 date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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***

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 132 requires that, beginning with teachers hired for the 2020-2021 school year, the probationary period for newly-hired teachers may not exceed two years.

**LD 358      An Act To Increase Funding for Career and Technical Education for Fiscal Year 2019-20      Died On Adjournment**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>       | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| WOODSOME D<br>SAMPSON H | OTP-AM<br>ONTP          | S-190                     |

This bill provides \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2018-19 to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program within the Department of Education in order to fully fund the cost of career and technical education pursuant to current law. This bill also amends Public Law 2017, chapter 446 to reflect the additional funding.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-190)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment raises the cap on the career and technical education funding formula provision regarding the allocation for career and technical education centers or regions for which the sum of the program components is greater than the most recent expenditure data, as adjusted for inflation to the year prior to the allocation year, from 5% to 15% and provides a one-time general fund appropriation of \$1,556,944 in fiscal year 2019-20. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**LD 359      An Act To Address Student Hunger with a "Breakfast after the Bell" Program      CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>  | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MOORE M<br>TUELL W | OTP-AM<br>ONTP          | S-78<br>S-100 MOORE M     |

This bill requires a school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year to operate an alternative breakfast delivery service that provides breakfast after the start of the school day for students at that public school. It also provides a process for a school administrative unit to opt out of the alternative breakfast delivery service. This bill requires the Department of Education to adopt rules to develop an application process and to adopt standards to address evaluation criteria based on need for funding assistance for alternative breakfast delivery services in school administrative units. It also requires the department to develop a means to track health and academic outcomes of students and schools that participate in alternative breakfast delivery services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-78)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, clarifies that the alternative breakfast delivery service provides breakfast after the start of the school day and before any lunch period in the school begins for students at that public school. The amendment also provides that a school administrative unit or a public school in which at least 70% of students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals participate in the breakfast program is exempt from the requirement of providing an alternative breakfast delivery service. The amendment revises the process as proposed in the bill for a school administrative unit to opt out of the alternative breakfast delivery service. The amendment also provides for procedures to track health and academic outcomes of students.

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-100)**

This amendment provides funding for the so-called "breakfast after the bell" program for fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21, and removes the indication of ongoing funding. This amendment also specifies that the funds provided do not lapse but are carried forward.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

**LD 375      An Act To Promote the Forest Products Industry in School Construction      PUBLIC 53  
and Renovation Involving Heating Systems**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>      | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| STEWART T<br>JACKSON T | OTP-AM                  | H-60                      |

This bill requires consideration of modern wood heating systems, with wood biomass fuels sourced locally and in a manner that benefits the State's economy, in the construction of new or substantially renovated schools or school buildings subject to State Board of Education approval.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-60)**

This amendment clarifies that, in approving school construction projects, the State Board of Education is required to ensure that school administrative units have considered heating systems that use renewable, locally sourced wood-based fuels and that benefit the State's economy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions in all planning and design for new or substantially renovated schools or school buildings subject to state board approval. The amendment strikes the requirement that the school administrative unit demonstrates a preference for modern wood heating systems.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 53 provides that, in approving school construction projects, the State Board of Education is required to ensure that school administrative units have considered heating systems that use renewable, locally sourced wood-based fuels and that benefit the State's economy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions in all planning and design for new or substantially renovated schools or school buildings subject to state board approval.

**LD 382      An Act To Fund Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons at the      PUBLIC 15  
Maine State Library**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>    | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GIDEON S<br>CARSON B | OTP-AM                  | H-7                       |

This bill establishes the Blind and Visually Impaired News Access Fund as a dedicated fund within the Maine State Library to be used to provide access to the National Federation of the Blind's news network for blind and visually impaired persons. This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to transfer \$40,000 per year from the state universal service fund to the Blind and Visually Impaired News Access Fund to support the annual cost of providing access to the network.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-7)**

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.