

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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

May 2026

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

LD 46 An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder

Public Law 2025, chapter 519 establishes a grant program in the Department of Education to increase postsecondary educational opportunities and support employability for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. Under the grant program, the department awards competitive grants to institutions of higher education in the State to develop and implement program plans that offer students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder, to the greatest extent possible, the same rights, privileges, experiences, benefits and outcomes in a higher education experience as students without disabilities.

Public Law 2025, chapter 519 requires that, in order to receive funding under the grant program, program plans developed by institutions of higher education must meet the requirements of a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 so that students enrolled in the program plan may be eligible for certain federal grants and work-study programs. The law requires institutions of higher education to use 25% of the funds received through the grant program for scholarships for students participating in the program plan. It also requires institutions of higher education that have been awarded grants to make periodic reports to the department concerning the progress and sustainability of their program plans and requires the department to annually report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the grant program.

Public Law 2025, chapter 519 was enacted as an emergency measure in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 519 became law without the Governor's signature and as an emergency measure effective January 11, 2026.

LD 109 Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission to Study Federal and National Efforts to Protect Artists from Copyright Infringement by Artificial Intelligence Companies and Users and to Monitor Educational Use

Resolve 2025, chapter 121 directs the Maine Arts Commission, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to study federal and national efforts to protect artists from copyright infringement by artificial intelligence companies and users and federal and national efforts to monitor the educational use of copyrighted work. The commission is directed to report its findings, including any suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters, which may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. Resolve 2025, chapter 121 provides that the commission may accept grants, private contributions and any additional outside funding for the study.

Resolve 2025, chapter 121 was finally passed in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Resolve 2025, chapter 121 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.