

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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STAFF:

ELENA ROIG, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
KAREN NADEAU, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

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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.

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Resolve 2025, chapter 121 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the commission must report its findings, including any suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2027, and that the committee may report out a bill to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

LD 323 An Act to Fund Support Staff for the State Board of Education

Public Law 2025, chapter 773 provides one-time funds of \$25,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to the State Board of Education to contract for staffing services.

LD 324 An Act Regarding Funding for Educational Programs and Opportunities

Public Law 2025, chapter 527 authorizes the Commissioner of Education to raise and expend private funds to support a fund established for specific educational programs and opportunities.

Public Law 2025, chapter 527 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 527 became law without the Governor's signature and as an emergency measure effective January 11, 2026.

LD 370 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Secondary School Mathematics Requirements

Resolve 2025, chapter 122 directs the Department of Education to collect data on the number of mathematics classes required for a high school diploma in the State, estimated costs associated with raising the minimum number of mathematics classes for certain schools and the number of schools that accept credits from alternative mathematics classes toward the requirements for a high school diploma. The resolve also directs the department to submit a report based on the data collected to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2026. The committee is authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature related to the report.

Resolve 2025, chapter 122 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 122 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 122 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the department must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2027, and that the committee is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.