

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 470 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maine Public Schools

Resolve 2025, chapter 124 directs the Department of Education to review teacher mentoring programs in public schools in the State. The review must include, but is not limited to, the number of teachers holding emergency teacher certificates, conditional teacher certificates and new teacher certificates with less than three years of experience employed at each school administrative unit, verification that those teachers are assigned mentors, interviews with principals about mentoring programs and a compilation of descriptions of basic requirements of mentoring programs throughout the State. The department is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters based on the findings of the review no later than February 15, 2026. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report.

Resolve 2025, chapter 124 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 124 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 124 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 February 15, 2027, and that the committee may report out a bill to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

LD 587 An Act to Require School Boards to Adopt a Policy on Automated External Defibrillator Access at School-sponsored Athletic Events

Public Law 2025, chapter 529 requires a school administrative unit to develop and implement a policy that provides access to automated external defibrillators at all school-sponsored events in which students are participating on school property, including team practices. The law also requires that an automated external defibrillator acquired by a school administrative unit must be tested and maintained according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines and that first aid and local emergency medical service providers be notified of the location and type of automated external defibrillator acquired.

Public Law 2025, chapter 529 also requires a school administrative unit to develop and implement an athletic emergency action plan based on recommendations from a nationally recognized heart health organization or nationally recognized athletic training organization that addresses the appropriate, venue-specific use of an automated external defibrillator by school personnel to respond to a cardiac arrest or similar emergency at an athletic event on school property, including a team practice.

Public Law 2025, chapter 529 was finally enacted 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.

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

Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 529 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Public Law 2025, chapter 529 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the requirement for school administrative units to develop and implement a policy regarding access to automated external defibrillators at school-sponsored athletic events begins with the 2027-2028 school year, instead of the 2026-2027 school year as was provided in the originally-enacted law.

LD 783 An Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center

Public Law 2025, chapter 743 provides one-time funds to the Maine Multicultural Center in Bangor for one or more positions to establish a comprehensive program for foreign-trained workers through the Maine Multicultural Center. The position or positions will develop and coordinate the comprehensive program, which must be designed to serve foreign-trained workers with an emphasis on serving foreign-trained professionals and seek private funds to support the center's programs and operations.

LD 858 An Act to Ensure Behavioral and Mental Health Services Are Available to Students by Providing Grants to Schools That Contract for Those Services

Public Law 2025, chapter 533 establishes a grant program within the Department of Education to provide grants to school administrative units that contract for behavioral and mental health services provided by licensed behavioral and mental health service providers. It limits the use of funds provided through the grant program to behavioral and mental health services that are not otherwise covered or reimbursable through the MaineCare program and provides that funds must be used in a manner that does not supplant qualified and available school administrative unit behavioral and mental health staff. The law also provides that the amounts of the grants must be based on a school administrative unit's population and provides ongoing funding for the grants starting in fiscal year 2025-26.

Public Law 2025, chapter 533 was finally enacted 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 533 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 957 An Act to Integrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History into the Statewide System of Learning Results

Public Law 2025, chapter 535 includes instruction on Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history in the Department of Education's required units of instruction on American history and Maine studies. The law requires the department to convene a volunteer advisory committee to collect information and prepare materials for teaching Asian American, Native