

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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Public Law 2025, chapter 508 also directs the University of Maine System, to the extent sufficient funding is available, to establish at the University of Maine School of Law a rural practice track to support the practice of law in underserved areas in the State. Among other things, the rural practice track must be designed to meet the following requirements.

1. It must provide, in each academic year, a housing stipend sufficient to cover the cost of dormitory housing at the University of Southern Maine for up to six first-year or second-year law school students who reside in underserved areas in the State or who have demonstrated a commitment to and aptitude for practicing law in those areas upon graduation.
2. It must provide, in each semester of the academic year and over the summer, internship, externship or other professional opportunities with organizations and other entities that provide legal services to individuals in underserved areas in the State for up to six second-year or third-year law school students who reside in underserved areas in the State or who have demonstrated a commitment to and aptitude for practicing law in those areas upon graduation.

Public Law 2025, chapter 508 requires that, no later than January 1, 2026, the University of Maine System is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters outlining its plan for implementation of the rural practice track at the University of Maine School of Law, including any recommendations for legislative or other action. After reviewing the report, either committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Public Law 2025, chapter 508 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 508 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Public Law 2025, chapter 508 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the University of Maine System must submit the report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and judiciary matters by January 1, 2027, and that either joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

LD 1705 An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight

Public Law 2025, chapter 722 requires the Department of Education to annually assess adult education needs in the State relative to funding appropriated by the Legislature and requires the department to, by December 3, 2026 and annually thereafter, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters detailing its assessment and recommendations. The law also requires the department to submit to the Legislature a detailed written explanation for any funding for adult education that is not disbursed in accordance with the reimbursement procedures described in the laws governing adult education. The department is also required to adopt guidelines for the use of state funds for adult education programs and to

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convene a stakeholder group to provide input on statewide goals for adult education, funding priorities and statewide program improvements.

Public Law 2025, chapter 722 prohibits the department from distributing funding attributable to adult education programs through a school administrative unit starting in fiscal year 2027-28. The department must distribute all funding associated with college transition programs directly to adult education programs through the subsidy outlined in Title 20-A, section 8607-A.

LD 1992 An Act to Create a Process for the Residents of a Municipality to Withdraw from a School Union

Public Law 2025, chapter 548 allows the residents of a participating municipality of a school administrative unit within a school union to petition and vote to withdraw from the school union in the same manner as a single municipality may withdraw from a regional school unit.

LD 2003 An Act to Improve Localization of Emergency Broadcast Messaging

Public Law 2025, chapter 725 requires the State Controller to transfer funds from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund. The law also provides \$600,000 in one-time funds in fiscal year 2026-27 to enable localization of public safety information and emergency alert messaging on the statewide radio network operated by Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation.

LD 2008 An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics

Public Law 2025, chapter 726 provides one-time funds of \$300,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics for infrastructure upgrades to the school's dormitory.

LD 2015 An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies

Public Law 2025, chapter 626 requires the superintendent of a school administrative unit to report to the commissioner of education annually the number and type of the unit's vacant teacher and educational technician positions. The law also provides that activities undertaken by the department using data reported to the commissioner of education related to teacher and educational technician vacancies must be done within existing resources.