

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
132<sup>ND</sup> 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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Private and Special Law 2025, chapter 18 also directs the board of trustees to prepare the revenues and expenditures for the capital portion of the budget and the district school committee the operating portion. The district school committee is directed to integrate those portions and submit the budget to the budget meeting for the budget validation referendum procedure.

**LD 2114 An Act An Act Regarding Public Preschool Programs Serving Children Who Are 3 Years of Age**

Public Law 2025, chapter 633 expands the definition of “public preschool program” to include a program that provides instruction to children who are three years of age and provides that, in addition to allowing start-up funds for the operation of public preschools for children who are four years of age, the State, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, may provide start-up funding for the allowable costs to operate public preschool programs for children who are both three years of age and identified as a child with a disability. The law specifies that public preschool students who are three years of age and have not been identified as a child with a disability are not subsidizable pupils for the purposes of state subsidy calculations under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606-B.

Under Public Law 2025, chapter 633, a child who is three years of age on October 15th and does not have an identified disability may still attend a public preschool program that offers instruction to children who are three years of age and have not been identified as a child with a disability. A person who is at least three years of age and is identified as a child with a disability may enroll in an available public preschool program at any time prior to enrolling in kindergarten.

**LD 2172 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education**

Resolve 2025, chapter 151 authorizes final adoption of portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education.

Resolve 2025, chapter 151 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 3, 2026.

**LD 2175 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education**

Resolve 2025, chapter 160 authorizes final adoption of portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education, notwithstanding that the filing period for written statements and arguments concerning the proposed rule closed nine days after the public hearing, only if the following changes to the rule are made.

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1. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 1: Teachers and Educational Specialists: General Certificates and Endorsements, the rule must be amended to add a new Section 1.19 establishing a Mathematics Specialist Certificate.
2. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, the rule must be amended to establish grade level specifications of birth to school age five, preschool through grade 8 and grades 6 through 12.
3. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, the rule must be amended to add a transitional pathway to allow holders of an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of kindergarten to earn an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of preschool and elementary grades without the need for additional coursework.
4. In the rule, any existing certificate or endorsement established for grades 7 through 12 must be amended to grades 6 through 12.

**LD 2192 An Act Regarding School Employee Investigations**

Public Law 2025, chapter 697 does the following.

1. It expands the definition of “covered investigation” of a school employee to include misconduct that is harassment as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 337-A; sexual assault as described in Title 17-A, chapter 11; stalking as described in Title 17-A, section 210-A; sexual exploitation of a minor as described in Title 17-A, chapter 12; or similar behavior that endangers the health, safety or welfare of a student or another school employee. The definition captures misconduct of all school employees and captures misconduct of a school employee against another school employee, as well as misconduct against students.
2. Upon receipt of a complaint of alleged misconduct, it requires a superintendent of a school entity to conduct a covered investigation. It provides that school entities must put anyone who is the subject of a covered investigation on paid leave, must complete covered investigations once they’ve begun, and superintendents must notify the Department of Education immediately of the outcome of a covered investigation.
3. Upon receipt of notification from a school entity of the initiation of a covered investigation of a school employee, it requires the Department of Education to enter a notation on a school employee’s educator credentialing records or other school employee records maintained by the department for that school employee indicating that a covered investigation is pending. The notation must be visible to superintendents and other school administrators authorized to review educator credentialing records and school employee records maintained by the department. Upon receipt from a school entity of the outcome of a covered investigation, the department shall update the notation on the school employee’s file. If the school employee is found to have committed the misconduct, the department must update the notation to reflect