

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature coming from the

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

July 2007

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STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

CON RES XXX.....	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY.....	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY.....	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP-ND.....	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

school and the local law enforcement agency in matters pertaining to student absenteeism.

LD 470 **An Act To Add Ten Days to the School Year**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS P	ONTP	

LD 470 extends the school year by 10 days starting in the school year beginning in 2007.

LD 481 **Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Review and Assess
Distance Learning Opportunities for High School Students**

RESOLVE 11

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARRINGTON	OTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Education to review and assess distance learning opportunities for public high school students and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2008.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 11 directs the Department of Education to review and assess distance learning opportunities for public high school students and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2008.

LD 482 **Resolve, To Conduct an Objective and Independent Review of Essential
Programs and Services**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIEH	ONTP	

This resolve is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This resolve proposes to require that an objective and independent review of the essential programs and services school funding formula be conducted by qualified researchers. In conducting the review, the researchers shall analyze whether the original intent of the essential programs and services design is being met, and whether the essential programs and services school funding formula is providing the necessary state aid to meet the actual cost of providing elementary, middle and secondary education programs, including special education, career and technical education, transportation, technology and extracurricular and cocurricular programs. The review will also include an assessment of the effect of the essential programs and services school funding formula on high-valuation communities and school districts. Finally, the review will include an assessment of the impact of recent laws enacting changes to the essential programs and services school funding formula and the phase-in of the percentage of the State's share of general purpose aid to local schools.