

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

MEMBERS:

SEN. PETER B. BOWMAN, CHAIR
SEN. ELIZABETH H. MITCHELL
SEN. PETER MILLS

REP. JACQUELINE R. NORTON, CHAIR
REP. EDWARD D. FINCH
REP. ELAINE MAKAS
REP. DAVID W. FARRINGTON
REP. CHARLES WILLIAM HARLOW
REP. PATRICIA B. SUTHERLAND
REP. PETER EDGECOMB
REP. HOWARD E. MCFADDEN
REP. ROBERTA M. MUSE
REP. MEREDITH N. STRANG BURGESS

STAFF:

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JILL IPPOLITI, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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

public institution of higher education in this State for one year. The purpose of the grant program is to allow students whose reported annual family income is at or below the established federal poverty level to enroll in an associate degree program or a baccalaureate degree program free of tuition and fee charges for one year in the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System or at Maine Maritime Academy. The amendment provides that a person is eligible for a grant under the program if the person:

1. Is a Maine resident who has graduated from an approved secondary school in the State or has successfully completed a high school equivalency diploma or its equivalent in the State;
2. Has been accepted for enrollment as an undergraduate in an eligible program of study and has not received a previous associate degree or baccalaureate degree;
3. Has completed an application for federal student financial aid programs and any institutional student financial aid programs for which the person may be eligible and an application for the Maine State Grant Program; and
4. Has a reported annual family income that is at or below the established federal poverty level as certified by the Finance Authority of Maine.

LD 1025 An Act To Reform Essential Programs and Services

ONTP

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

This bill accomplishes the following:

1. It directs the Department of Education to develop and post on its publicly accessible website a clear and logically organized description of how the cost of the components of essential programs and services is calculated;
2. It directs the department to develop a methodology that allows each major component of a school administrative unit's budget to be readily compared with the comparable component of the unit's required contribution established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688, subsection 3-A; and
3. It requires a school administrative unit, in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Education, to provide an opportunity for voters within the unit to vote separately on each major component of the unit's budget as it compares with the comparable component of the unit's required contribution established under Title 20-A, section 15688, subsection 3-A.

LD 1040 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Encourage School Administrative Units To Encourage Secondary School Students To Apply to College

RESOLVE 122

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUMMINGS MITCHELL	OTP-AM	H-180 HANLEY S S-100 DIAMOND

This bill requires secondary school students to complete at least one application to a postsecondary educational institution.

House Amendment "A" (H-180)

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This amendment is being offered on behalf of the Committee on Engrossed Bills to incorporate a revised fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-100)

This amendment changes the bill to a resolve that directs the Department of Education to devise and implement methods to encourage school administrative units to encourage secondary school students to complete at least one application to a college, university or other postsecondary educational institution. These methods may include but are not limited to adding a requirement that a secondary school student complete at least one application to a college, university or other postsecondary educational institution to the requirements in the department's rules for the award of a diploma.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 122 directs the Department of Education to devise and implement methods to encourage school administrative units to encourage secondary school students to complete at least one application to a college, university or other postsecondary educational institution. These methods may include but are not limited to adding a requirement that a secondary school student complete at least one application to a college, university or other postsecondary educational institution to the requirements in the department's rules for the award of a diploma.

LD 1041	An Act To Improve the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula	CARRIED OVER
----------------	--	---------------------

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FINCH MARRACHE		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill seeks to improve various aspects of the funding formula for local schools contained in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

LD 1042	An Act To Establish Uniformity in School Building Construction BY REQUEST	ONTP
----------------	--	-------------

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

This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules for new school construction projects that define what constitutes small, medium and large schools. The state board is required to develop standard school construction plans for small, medium and large elementary schools, middle schools and high schools based on student enrollment. The state board may not approve the allocation of state funds for a new school construction project unless the new school construction plan submitted in the application meets the standard school construction plans.

LD 1043	An Act Regarding Requirements for the Issuance and Renewal of Teaching Certificates	ONTP
----------------	--	-------------

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