

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to amend the education statutes to improve public education. The bill proposes to change:

1. The system of learning results, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 222, to improve elementary and secondary public education in the State by advancing educational equity, reinforcing accountability and promoting the assessment of student learning;
2. The Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, established in Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, to ensure the provision of adequate educational resources for all students to meet the standards in the 8 content standard subject areas of the system of learning results; and
3. The Child Development Services System, as defined in Title 20-A, section 7001, subsection 1-A, to ensure the provision of child find activities, early intervention services and free, appropriate public education services to eligible children as required by federal law and state statutes, including the provisions of Title 20-A, chapters 301 and 303.

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

LD 1175 An Act To Apply Municipal Nepotism Policies to Municipal School Units

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLANCHETTE PERRY J	ONTP	

This bill requires that municipalities with an ordinance, charter, code or personnel policy that governs nepotism relating to employment of a family member of a municipal officer use that policy for school board members of a municipal school unit.

LD 1178 An Act To Update and Clarify Laws Relating to Maine's Community Colleges

PUBLIC 67

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

This bill updates and clarifies several laws governing Maine's community colleges. It requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System to license dormitory rooms for occupancy by students. It updates the language regarding traffic violations on campus. It clarifies that the Maine Community College System personnel records are entitled to the same protections as the personnel records of state employees. It enables the community colleges to enhance public safety by specifying the colleges' ability to control firearm possession on their campuses. Finally, it gives community college library patrons the same rights regarding confidentiality as patrons of the University of Maine System, Maine Maritime Academy and municipal libraries.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 67 updates and clarifies several laws governing Maine's community colleges. It requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System to license dormitory rooms for occupancy by students. It updates the language regarding traffic violations on campus. It clarifies that the Maine Community College System personnel records are entitled to the same protections as the personnel records of state employees. It

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

enables the community colleges to enhance public safety by specifying the colleges' ability to control firearm possession on their campuses. Finally, it gives community college library patrons the same rights regarding confidentiality as patrons of the University of Maine System, Maine Maritime Academy and municipal libraries.

LD 1186 An Act To Establish Educational Excellence for the Towns of Corinna, Etna, Dixmont, Hartland, Newport, Palmyra, Plymouth and St. Albans **ONTP**

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

This bill establishes the Corinna, Etna, Dixmont, Hartland, Newport, Palmyra, Plymouth and St. Albans Community School District.

LD 1195 An Act To Establish a Uniform Chart of Municipal Accounts **ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the current law to expand a model chart of accounts from the school system to include municipal accounts and recommend that it be adopted as a guide to be voluntarily followed.

LD 1220 An Act To Ensure Continued Education in Boatbuilding at the Marine Technology Center **ONTP**

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

This bill is an emergency concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to require the Maine Community College System to maintain instruction and recruitment for students at the Marine Technology Center at the Washington County Community College in Eastport for the 2007-2008 school year or until a new entity is operating at the school, whichever is sooner.

LD 1254 An Act To Modify the Student Code of Conduct **ONTP**

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

LD 1254 requires that the student code of conduct be modified to provide school units the legal basis for controlling student participation in cocurricular activities for behavior that is unlawful, and requires the Department of Education to develop language designed to accomplish this goal and make the language available to school boards.