

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

Resolve 2007, chapter 102 directs the Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of Education and the cochairs of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Sports, Health and Wellness to convene a planning and oversight team, known as PE4ME. PE4ME is charged with developing standards for physical education in elementary schools and an implementation plan to achieve those standards by the 2010-2011 school year. It requires that the team report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 31, 2007. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

LD 1465 *Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program for a Trimester Schedule at the University of Maine at Presque Isle*

ONTP

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

This resolve directs the University of Maine at Presque Isle to establish a pilot program to implement a trimester system during the school year to create a 3-year period for earning a bachelor's degree instead of a 4-year period. The university shall report on the status of this program each February to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

LD 1473 *An Act To Provide State Support for State-approved School Construction Projects in Certain Municipalities*

ONTP

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

This bill provides an adjustment to the state contribution for debt service for certain member municipalities in school administrative districts or community school districts when one or more member municipalities, but not all the school district's member municipalities, have a local contribution that is below the mill rate expectation established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671-A. The bill provides an adjustment to the state contribution for debt service equivalent to the adjustments provided to the state share of the total allocation for school administrative units that are determined to be eligible for the adjustment to the state contribution for debt service pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 2, except that the adjustment for debt service for eligible member municipalities of these school districts must be made considering all debt service costs of the member municipality that have been placed on the State Board of Education's priority list for state funding of a school construction project before or after January 2005 instead of by January 2005 as otherwise required under Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 2, paragraph A, subparagraph (2).

LD 1480 *An Act To Provide an Income Tax Credit for Donations to Maine Public Schools*

ONTP

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

This bill provides an income tax credit for 30% of eligible donations to a public school for the purpose of supporting academic programs and services. The Department of Education is required to define eligible donations. Forty percent of eligible donations to the school may not be used to reduce state funding to the school administrative unit

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

receiving the donation.

LD 1506 An Act To Reform Maine's School Funding

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING J	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

This bill repeals the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and related provisions. It establishes a new school funding formula that requires school administrative units to make a local education funding effort equal to .008 times the total valuation of taxable property within the unit. The State is required to fund education expenses that exceed this baseline. A local unit that does not meet this baseline funding requirement is not eligible for any state subsidy. The bill requires the Department of Education to audit school administrative units' budgets and to compare the expenses of schools of closely similar size.

LD 1525 An Act To Promote Compassion in Schoolchildren

ONTP

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

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to prescribe by rule a course of study to instruct students in all grades, including home schooled students and students in private schools, on the principles of compassion and humanity to all living creatures, including animals and birds. The course must be at a minimum 1/2 hour per week during the school year.

LD 1532 An Act To Create a Service Model for Delivering Career and Technical Education

P & S 24

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE	OTP-AM	H-224 S-372 ROTUNDO

LD 1532 appropriates \$30,000 for the start-up of the Sanford Applied Technology Center.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-224)

This amendment clarifies the purpose of the funding and increases the appropriation from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-372)

This amendment decreases the appropriation from \$50,000 to \$5,000.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2007, chapter 24 provides a one-time appropriation of \$5,000 for the Sanford vocational center to work with affiliated school administrative units to research and develop programming for a regional career and technical education center.