

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

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

May 2008

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
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**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 Second Regular or First Special Sessions of the 123rd Maine Legislature.

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:

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (R2) is June 30, 2008. The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session (S1) is July 18, 2008.¹ The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills. Any bill summarized in this document having an LD number less than 1932 was a bill carried over from the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

¹ The session in which each law was enacted or finally passed (R2 or S1) is included in Appendix C.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 2300 **An Act To Facilitate the Provision of Educational Loans for Maine Students and Families**

**PUBLIC 665
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BOWMAN	OTP-AM	S-584 S-662 ROTUNDO

This bill allows the Finance Authority of Maine to issue student loan bonds for the origination or purchase of federally guaranteed student loans secured by a capital reserve fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-584)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-662)

This amendment provides that the Finance Authority of Maine may not create or establish any capital reserve fund under the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11496-A after June 30, 2009. This amendment also removes the provision that required the Governor to pay directly from the State Contingent Account to the capital reserve fund the amount certified by the authority as necessary to restore the reserve fund to the level required under section 11496-A, subsection 3.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 665 allows the Finance Authority of Maine to issue student loan bonds for the origination or purchase of federally guaranteed student loans secured by a capital reserve fund. The law permits the authority to create or establish any capital reserve fund by June 30, 2009.

Public Law 2007, chapter 665 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 18, 2008.

LD 2303 **An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Alternative Education Programs Committee**

PUBLIC 667

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
		S-647 MARTIN

This bill is the unanimous report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. It adds definitions for "alternative education program," "alternative learning" and "at-risk student" to the definitions section in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A. It amends sections of statute to consistently use defined terms. It also establishes the Commission to Study Alternative Education Programs with directives to continue the work of the committee established in Resolve 2007, chapter 124.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-647)

This amendment removes provisions to reestablish and direct the work of the Commission To Study Alternative Education Programs.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 667 adds definitions for "alternative education program," "alternative learning" and "at-risk student" to the definitions section in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A. It amends sections of statute to consistently use the defined terms.