

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

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

July 2009

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# STATE OF MAINE

124<sup>TH</sup> 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 124<sup>th</sup> 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:

CARRIED OVER.....	Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
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; bill died
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 12, 2009. 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 authorizes a school administrative unit to use an alternative school calendar, such as a calendar of 4 days of student instruction per week, if that calendar provides for an amount of student instruction equivalent to that provided by a traditional school calendar.

**LD 97      Resolve, Directing the Maine Community College System, the University of Maine System and the Department of Education To Develop a Plan To Enable High School Students To Achieve a Seamless Transition to Higher Education**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRYANT M BRYANT B	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Maine Community College System, the University of Maine System and the Department of Education to collaborate in a review and assessment of the opportunities available to high school students to enroll in college courses at public higher education institutions in the State and other initiatives established to support high school students in their transition from high school to higher education. The resolve directs the review panel to develop a plan to enable high school students, including youth between 16 years of age and 20 years of age who are enrolled in an adult education program to prepare for a Maine high school equivalency diploma, to achieve a seamless transition to public higher education institutions in the State. The review panel plan must be presented in a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2010. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit legislation based on the review panel report to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

**LD 98      Resolve, To Direct the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services To Require the Teaching of Mental Health Awareness in Middle Schools Based on a National Curriculum**

**ONTP**

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

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to convene a planning team to develop a plan to teach mental health awareness in middle schools by the 2010-2011 school year. It requires that the planning team report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than December 31, 2009. It authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.