

# 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**  
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

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND, CHAIR  
SEN. ELIZABETH M. SCHNEIDER  
SEN. CAROL WESTON

REP. PATRICIA B. SUTHERLAND, CHAIR  
REP. EDWARD D. FINCH  
REP. ALAN M. CASAVANT  
REP. RICHARD V. WAGNER  
REP. STEPHEN D. LOVEJOY  
REP. MARY PENNELL NELSON  
REP. HELEN RANKIN  
REP. DAVID E. RICHARDSON  
REP. HOWARD E. MCFADDEN  
REP. PETER B. JOHNSON

**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

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**

**LD 231**

**Resolve, Directing the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System To Develop Recommendations To Address the Professional Needs of State Employees**

**ONTP**

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

This resolve requires the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System to convene a stakeholders group in order to present recommendations to the Legislature and the Executive Department on the role that the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System can play in addressing the professional development needs of state employees.

**LD 245**

**An Act To Calculate the School Year by Number of Hours**

**PUBLIC 87  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SULLIVAN	OTP-AM A OTP-AM B ONTP C	S-32

This bill directs the Department of Education to provide by rule for a school calendar that is based upon a minimum annual number of hours that is equivalent to the current 180-day school calendar.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-31)**

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. It establishes criteria required for the approval of an alternative school calendar. It directs the Commissioner of Education to provisionally adopt rules no later than December 1, 2009. It authorizes the commissioner to approve requests for the school year 2009-2010 prior to adoption of the rules as long as statutory criteria are met. It also allows the commissioner to authorize a school operating on a calendar based on days to substitute equivalent hours for days for a limited time period upon application of the school board.

**Committee Amendment "B" (S-32)**

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. It allows the Commissioner of Education to authorize a school to substitute equivalent hours for days for a limited time period upon application of the school board.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2009, chapter 87 authorizes the Commissioner of Education to grant a request by a school board to substitute equivalent hours for instruction days for a limited time period. Public Law 2009, chapter 87 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2009.

Pulic Law 2009, chaper 87 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2009.