

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the Second Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature coming from the

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

April 2010

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND 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 Second Regular Session of the 124th 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>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<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 HOUSES</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 of the 124th Legislature is Monday, July 12, 2010. 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 160 An Act To Require the Department of Education To Provide an Accounting of School Subsidy Based on Individual Members in a Regional School Unit or Alternative Organizational Structure

ONTP

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature. Current law requires the Commissioner of Education to notify school boards of the amount of school subsidy to be allocated to school administrative units. This bill requires the commissioner to also provide the governing bodies of regional school units and alternative organizational structures with the computation and the amount of the allocation of school subsidy that the commissioner has estimated for the regional school units and each member municipality in the regional school unit or for the alternative organizational structure and each member entity in the alternative organizational structure.

LD 352 An Act To Encourage Veterinary Practice in Maine and Make Revisions to Related Medical Education Programs Administered by the Finance Authority of Maine

PUBLIC 488

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E	OTP-AM	S-368

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session. It establishes the Maine School of Veterinary Medicine Loan Program, similar to the Maine Dental Education Loan Program. The program would create three slots per year for veterinary students or persons eligible for licensure as a veterinarian to apply for a loan repayment program through the Finance Authority of Maine. The program would promote veterinarian practice for large animals. The bill creates the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Medical Education to work with the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine to evaluate and improve the program.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-368)

This amendment includes changes to the Health Professions Loan Program and the Access to Medical Education Program. It also revises the proposed veterinary medicine loan program proposed in the original bill. The changes to the Health Professions Loan Program convert it from a program that provided forgivable loans for medical, veterinary and dental education and loans for optometry education to a program that provides loans for medical, veterinary and dental education to be repaid at varying interest rates depending upon the nature and location of the practice. The amendment eliminates loans for optometry students. The amendment adds and revises certain effective dates to transition to the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program enacted in Public Law 2009, chapter 410. The amendment eliminates new access seats for veterinary education beginning in 2011 in anticipation of the creation of the Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program. The amendment makes changes to the Advisory Committee on Medical Education to reflect the changing nature of the programs.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 488 converts the Health Professions Loan Program from a program that provided forgivable loans for medical, veterinary and dental education and loans for optometry education to a program that

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provides loans for medical, veterinary and dental education to be repaid at varying interest rates depending upon the nature and location of the practice. It establishes dates that conform to certain effective dates for the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program established in Public Law 2009, chapter 410. It eliminates new access seats for veterinary education beginning in 2011 in coincide with the phase-in of the Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program. Chapter 488 makes changes to the Advisory Committee on Medical Education to reflect the changing nature of the programs.

LD 470 An Act To Sustain Nursing Education in Lincoln County

ONTP

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature. It proposes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$500,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2009-10 for Central Maine Community College's Lincoln County nursing program in Damariscotta, Maine.

**LD 551 Resolve, To Direct the Commissioner of Education To Review the
Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula**

RESOLVE 197

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FINCH	OTP-AM	H-793

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature. The bill, which is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposes to enact measures designed to improve the essential programs and services funding formula.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-793)

This amendment strikes the concept draft and replaces it with a resolve that requires the Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, to review and report on the components and subsidy distribution mechanisms of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act. The Commissioner of Education and the Maine Education Policy Research Institute are directed to submit their report by January 3, 2011 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 197 requires the Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, to review and report on the components and subsidy distribution mechanisms of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act. The Commissioner of Education and the Maine Education Policy Research Institute are directed to submit their report by January 3, 2011 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.