

# 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 removes the requirement that municipal school units, school administrative districts and community school districts provide transportation for public preschool students.

While this bill died in concurrence, Part C of Public Law 2009, chapter 213, the biennial budget bill, authorizes the Commissioner of Education to waive the requirement that school administrative units provide transportation for public preschool students.

**LD 422      An Act To Include the Study of Franco-American History in the System of Learning Results** **ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT**

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

This bill amends the law governing instruction in history in schools to require the inclusion of Franco-American history and the study of the influence of French intellectual thought on American history.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-219)**

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. It replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Commissioner of Education to include Franco-American studies in the content standards and performance indicators for teaching social studies in Maine schools and adds an appropriations and allocation section.

**LD 465      An Act To Amend Maine's School Construction Laws To Reduce the Percentage for Art to 0.5%** **ONTP**

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

This bill decreases from 1% to 0.5% the percentage of the cost of a school construction project that must be spent on art.

**LD 467      An Act To Exempt School Administrative District 12, School Union 37 and School Union 60 from the Laws Requiring School Administration Consolidation** **P & S 19 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS P	OTP-AM	S-186

This bill exempts the towns of Jackman and Moose River, Union 60 and Union 37 from minimum student enrollments established in statute for regional school units. The Commissioner of Education is required to treat the towns in a manner similar to the treatment of coastal islands.

# Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

## Committee Amendment "A" (S-186)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

### Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 19 exempts the towns of Jackman and Moose River, Union 60 and Union 37 from minimum student enrollments established in statute for regional school units. The Commissioner of Education is required to treat the towns in a manner similar to the treatment of coastal islands.

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 19 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 2, 2009.

**LD 470      An Act To Sustain Nursing Education in Lincoln County      Carried Over**

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

This bill provides 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.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 124th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1053.

**LD 475      An Act Regarding the Reorganization of Regional School Units and      ONTP**  
**Allowing a Municipality To Opt Out of an Existing School Structure**

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

This bill enacts into law provisions regarding the reorganization of regional school units. The new provisions are similar to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, former sections 1405 and 1406 and allow the withdrawal from a regional school unit of a municipality and the transfer of a municipality out of one regional school unit into another. The bill also includes provisions that formerly applied in this area of law authorizing the State Board of Education to review decisions of the Commissioner of Education and to make rules concerning the reorganization of the regional school units.

**LD 489      Resolve, Regarding Continuity of Care in the Child Development      RESOLVE 113**  
**Services System      EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND	OTP-AM	H-487 SUTHERLAND S-232