

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2009

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH 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 First 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:

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 124th 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.

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LD 697 An Act To Stabilize School Heating Costs

ONTP

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

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop and administer a program for the bulk purchase of heating oil for every school facility that uses heating oil, with each participating school administrative unit paying for the unit's consumption of oil and a pro rata share of the expenses to administer the program.

LD 698 An Act To Allow School Budget Validation Referenda To Be Held on a Saturday

**PUBLIC 98
EMERGENCY**

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

This bill allows school budget validation referendum votes for regional school units to be held on Saturday.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 98 allows school budget validation referendum votes for regional school units to be held on Saturday.

Public Law 2009, chapter 98 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2009.

LD 711 An Act To Authorize the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program

PUBLIC 427

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CASAVANT BRANNIGAN	OTP-AM	H-218

This bill establishes the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-218)

This amendment amends the criteria that apply to social workers who may be eligible for the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program. The amendment also strikes the provision in the bill that authorized the Finance Authority of Maine to borrow money on behalf of the program and clarifies that the Finance Authority of Maine is authorized to receive, invest and expend any federal funds received by the State for the benefit of social workers who have outstanding education loans.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 427 establishes the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program and provides that

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social workers who meet the following criteria may be eligible for the loan repayment program:

1. Holds a social worker license under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 83;
2. Has completed a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in social work from an accredited school of social work within 3 years prior to the date the applicant's application is received by the Finance Authority of Maine;
3. Possesses an outstanding education loan relating to the degree;
4. Practices social work in an underserved practice area; and
5. Signs a statement of intent in a form acceptable to the authority to work as a social worker in the State for a minimum of 3 years after acceptance into the program.

The law also establishes the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Fund and authorizes the Finance Authority of Maine to receive, invest and expend on behalf of the fund money from gifts, grants, bequests and donations in addition to money appropriated or allocated by the State and any federal funds received by the State for the benefit of social workers who have outstanding education loans.

LD 725 An Act To Protect Student Privacy while Complying with Federal Law

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

ALFOND

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill prohibits the disclosure of the name of a student unless required by state or federal law and directs the Department of Education to work with schools to conform to this prohibition. This bill also allows a student or parent of a student whose name has been disclosed or a school official or school administrative unit in which the student attends school to enforce this provision by a civil action.

LD 735 An Act To Allow Unimmunized Children to Attend School Upon Parental Waiver

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

MARRACHE

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill allows a student who has not been immunized to attend school if the student's parent or legal guardian signs a waiver acknowledging and accepting the risk of allowing the student to attend school without the proper immunization.