

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
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 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.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This bill requires the State to contribute 55% of the total operating costs of the State's public higher educational institutions by fiscal year 2011-12 and provides funding to Maine Maritime Academy, the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System in order for the percentage contributed by the State to be equal to 45% of the operating costs in fiscal year 2009-10 and 50% in fiscal year 2010-11.

**LD 778 An Act To Exempt Certain Isolated Rural Communities from the
Minimum Student Enrollment Requirements in the Laws Governing the
Reorganization of School Administrative Units**

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MACDONALD | ONTP | |

This bill amends the laws governing the reorganization of school administrative units to provide that school administrative units located in isolated rural communities may be eligible for an exception to the minimum student enrollment requirements by entering into a collaborative agreement for administrative, instructional and noninstructional functions with another school administrative unit prior to July 1, 2009.

**LD 806 An Act To Authorize Fuel Cost Stabilization Funds To Be Established
in School Administrative Units**

PUBLIC 104

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ALFOND | OTP-AM | S-92 |

This bill permits a school administrative unit to establish a fuel cost stabilization fund for unexpected heating and transportation fuel costs. The appropriations and transfers into the fund may not exceed the highest annual cost for fuel that the school administrative unit has experienced in its 3 most recent fiscal years.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-92)

This amendment clarifies the method for a new or reorganized school administrative unit to determine the limit of the amount that may be transferred to a fuel cost stabilization fund. The amendment also removes cross-references to the provision that states that investment of the fund will be subject to the laws applicable to school reserve funds.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 104 permits a school administrative unit to establish a fuel cost stabilization fund for unexpected heating and transportation fuel costs. The appropriations and transfers into the fund may not exceed the highest annual cost for fuel that the school administrative unit has experienced in its 3 most recent fiscal years.