

# 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

While the provisions of this amendment were enacted, Part A, Sec. A-27 of Public Law 2009, chapter 213, the biennial budget bill, included one-time State General Fund appropriations of \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2009-10 and \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2010-11 to the Finance Authority of Maine as startup funding to implement this initiative (see LD 353).

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 410 establishes the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program to provide a tuition subsidy of 50% of the cost of attendance annually, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per student annually, for eligible students who enter qualifying Maine-based medical school programs, for the purpose of increasing the number of physicians in the State who practice in primary care, underserved specialties or underserved areas of the State. The law accomplishes the following.

1. It defines "qualifying Maine-based medical school program" as an allopathic or osteopathic medical school program in which an educational or health care institution located in the State participates in curriculum development, selects no fewer than 10 students for admission per class year, requires that all students complete not less than one academic year of the medical school curriculum at facilities located in the State, raises funds through philanthropic resources and the private sector to match 100% of those funds appropriated or allocated by the State for scholarships and includes a required clerkship experience and a curriculum that focuses on rural health care and primary care.
2. It establishes the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Fund as a nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving fund under the jurisdiction of the Finance Authority of Maine. The authority is authorized to receive, invest and expend money from gifts, grants, bequests and donations or other sources in addition to funds appropriated or allocated by the State to the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program.
3. It provides for the gradual phase-out of the Access to Medical Education Program by establishing that, beginning January 1, 2010, the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine may not secure any additional new positions at schools of allopathic or osteopathic medicine under this program and shall secure only the number of positions necessary to allow students already occupying such positions as of January 1, 2010 to complete their remaining one to 3 years of medical education at their respective institutions. It also provides that, beginning July 1, 2013, the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine may not secure any further positions at schools of allopathic or osteopathic medicine under the Access to Medical Education Program.
4. It provides that students occupying positions at schools of osteopathic or allopathic medicine through the Access to Medical Education Program on or before September 30, 2009 remain eligible for loans through the Health Professions Loan Program through June 30, 2012. It further provides that the existing revolving fund that supports the Access to Medical Education Program and the Health Professions Loan Program must continue to support students eligible for these programs through June 30, 2012.

Public Law 2009, chapter 410 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 16, 2009.

**LD 856**

### An Act To Ensure the Availability of Supplemental Educational Loans

**PUBLIC 40  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAYE	OTP-AM	H-115 SUTHERLAND S-62

## *Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

This bill allows the Maine Educational Loan Authority to establish a capital reserve fund to secure student loan revenue bonds in the principal amount necessary to help meet the supplemental educational financing needs of Maine students and families. It also removes language that places a limit on the principal amount of a certain type of bond that the authority may have outstanding at any one time.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-62)**

This amendment increases the limit on the principal amount for certain types of bonds issued by the Maine Educational Loan Authority to \$300,000,000. It requires the authority to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than April 2, 2010 with an account of tax exempt bonds issued and student loan rates.

### **House Amendment "A" (H-115)**

This amendment eliminates, after June 30, 2011 the authority for the Maine Educational Loan Authority to establish any capital reserve fund.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2009, chapter 40 authorizes the Maine Educational Loan Authority to establish a capital reserve fund to secure student loan revenue bonds to help meet the supplemental educational financing needs of Maine students and families. The authority to establish a capital reserve fund expires July 1, 2011. It increases the limit on the principal amount for certain types of bonds issued by the Maine Educational Loan Authority to \$300,000,000. It requires the authority to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than April 2, 2010 with an account of tax exempt bonds issued, student loan rates and any fees in excess of \$50,000 paid to entities outside the authority.

Public Law 2009, chapter 40 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 17, 2009.

### **LD 857      An Act To Validate Certain Proceedings Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Notes by School Administrative District No. 32**

**P & S 4  
EMERGENCY**

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

This bill corrects a defect in a bond for school construction approved on December 12, 2007 by the State Board of Education for School Administrative District No. 32 by authorizing the district to issue bonds for the construction retroactive to December 12, 2007.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 4 corrects a defect in a bond for school construction approved on December 12, 2007 by the State Board of Education for School Administrative District No. 32 by authorizing the district to issue bonds for the construction retroactive to December 12, 2007.

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 4 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 13, 2009.