

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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STAFF:

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JILL IPPOLITI, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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

2. It provides that all students with disabilities must have access to accessible instructional materials and may receive instruction in Braille. Accessible instructional materials and provisions for the accessibility of online learning programs for individuals with disabilities must be in alignment with the accessible instructional materials provisions of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and in alignment with the universal design provisions of the 1998 amendments to the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 contained in the federal Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998.
3. It changes the requirement that all special education programs receive a visit from the Department of Education at least once every five years to as often as necessary to comply with federal requirements. It does not prohibit a request from a school administrative unit for the commissioner to review a special education program for the purpose of review and assistance whenever necessary.

LD 1563 Resolve, To Develop Model Academic Year Calendars

RESOLVE 154

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SUTHERLAND ALFOND	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-601 H-636 SUTHERLAND

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a study group consisting of kindergarten-to-grade 12 school officials, primarily superintendents and career and technical education directors, to prepare a draft model academic year calendar by December 1, 2010. It also authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters to submit legislation to implement the findings of the study group to the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-601)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment changes the reporting date of the working group and requires that it develop draft model academic year calendars that account for regional differences within the State, rather than one statewide model, and authorizes the working group to seek input from other stakeholders as it determines appropriate. The amendment also clarifies that this is a working group, rather than a study group.

House Amendment "A" (H-636)

This amendment authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters to submit a bill, rather than legislation, to the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature to implement the findings of the working group on model academic year calendars.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 154 directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a working group consisting of kindergarten-to-grade 12 school officials, primarily superintendents and career and technical education directors, to prepare draft model academic year calendars that account for regional differences within the State by February 11, 2011. It provides that the working group may seek input from other stakeholders as it determines appropriate and that the working group shall present recommendations to the Commissioner of Education on how to present the model academic year calendars for statewide review. It also authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters to submit a bill to implement the findings of the working group to the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.