

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

MEMBERS:

SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND, CHAIR
SEN. ELIZABETH M. SCHNEIDER
SEN. CAROL WESTON

REP. PATRICIA B. SUTHERLAND, CHAIR
REP. EDWARD D. FINCH
REP. ALAN M. CASAVANT
REP. RICHARD V. WAGNER
REP. STEPHEN D. LOVEJOY
REP. MARY PENNELL NELSON
REP. HELEN RANKIN
REP. DAVID E. RICHARDSON
REP. HOWARD E. MCFADDEN
REP. PETER B. JOHNSON

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

LD 1658

An Act To Increase Maine's High School Graduation Rates

PUBLIC 626

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND	OTP-AM	S-429

This bill establishes the state goal of achieving an average statewide secondary school graduation rate of 90% by the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The State Board of Education is required to provisionally adopt major substantive rules specifying the methodology to be used to calculate secondary school graduation rates through 2016 and to submit those rules for legislative review by January 14, 2011. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education to establish a stakeholder group to develop recommendations relating to increasing secondary school graduation rates in the State and to report its findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 10, 2011.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-429)

The amendment requires the Department of Education rather than the State Board of Education to develop the method used to calculate publicly supported secondary school graduation rates. It also requires the department to provide technical assistance to schools that have not attained an 80% graduation rate by the end of the 2012-2013 school year. It requires these schools to develop and submit to the department a corrective action plan. The amendment expands the membership of the stakeholder group to be established by the Commissioner of Education and explicitly directs the group to review plans developed by the commissioner's advisory committee on truancy, dropouts and alternative education and other groups.

The amendment changes the date for the working group to report its findings from January 10, 2011 to November 1, 2010 and provides that the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs of the 124th Legislature may receive and discuss the report at an authorized interim meeting of the committee. The amendment allows the committee to make recommendations to the Commissioner of Education and to the joint standing committee of the 125th Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 626 establishes the state goal of achieving an average statewide secondary school graduation rate of 90% by the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The law requires the Department of Education to provisionally adopt major substantive rules specifying the methodology to be used to calculate secondary school graduation rates through 2016 and to submit those rules for legislative review by January 14, 2011. The law also requires the department to provide technical assistance to schools that have not attained an 80% graduation rate by the end of the 2012-2013 school year and requires these schools to develop and submit to the department a corrective action plan.

The law requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a stakeholder group to develop recommendations relating to increasing secondary school graduation rates in the State and to report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs of the 124th Legislature by November 1, 2010. The law allows the committee to receive and discuss the report at an authorized interim meeting of the committee and also permits the committee to make recommendations to the Commissioner of Education and to the joint standing committee of the 125th Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.