

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

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

July 2011

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STATE OF MAINE
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 125th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD 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 LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

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; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature is September 28, 2011. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 403 Resolve, To Encourage School Administrative Units To Adopt a Mission Statement for Each of the Public Schools Operated by the School Administrative Unit

RESOLVE 94

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NELSON	OTP-AM	H-538

This bill requires a school board to adopt a mission statement for every school under its jurisdiction. In developing and adopting a mission statement, a school board must solicit input from teachers, administrators, parents, students and community members. The mission statement must be included in the comprehensive education plan required from all school administrative units, and is subject to review as part of the annual report to the Commissioner of Education on the progress of implementing the plan.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-538)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve to encourage each school administrative unit to adopt a mission statement for every school under its jurisdiction. In developing and adopting a mission statement, school boards are encouraged to solicit input from teachers, administrators, parents, students and community members. The amendment directs the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school administrative units in developing mission statements for the schools under their jurisdiction. The amendment also directs the Department of Education to review the adoption of mission statements by school administrative units under this resolve and to submit a written report with recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by September 1, 2014.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2011, chapter 94 encourages each school administrative unit to adopt a mission statement for every school under its jurisdiction. In developing and adopting a mission statement, school boards are encouraged to solicit input from teachers, administrators, parents, students and community members. The resolve directs the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school administrative units in developing mission statements for the schools under their jurisdiction. The resolve also directs the Department of Education to review the adoption of mission statements by school administrative units under this resolve and to submit a written report with recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by September 1, 2014.

LD 404 An Act To Assist School Administrative Units in Providing Health Insurance to Their Employees

PUBLIC 249

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NELSON	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-262

This bill allows a school administrative unit to request from its insurer loss information on its employees pursuant to the Maine Insurance Code as part of the competitive bidding process in procuring health insurance for the unit's employees.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-262)

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment replaces the bill.

1. It requires the administrator of an individual school health plan or a group plan covering a multiple-school group to seek competitive bids at least once every five years. The amendment requires that the administrator of any such group plan must make the competitive bids available to individual school administrative units upon request.
2. In recognition of the fact that the premium rates for the plan year starting July 1, 2011 have already been set, the amendment requires the Maine Education Association Benefits Trust to review the current benefits option and consider creating a new benefits option with a lower premium rate for the 2012 plan year or a subsequent plan year.
3. It requires the Maine Education Association Benefits Trust to include a representative appointed by the Maine School Boards Association to serve as a member of the board of trustees of the trust no later than January 1, 2012.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 249 accomplishes the following:

1. It requires the administrator of an individual school health plan or a group plan covering a multiple-school group to seek competitive bids at least once every five years; and it requires that the administrator of any such group plan must make the competitive bids available to individual school administrative units upon request;
2. In recognition of the fact that the premium rates for the plan year starting July 1, 2011 have already been set, it requires the Maine Education Association Benefits Trust to review the current benefits option and consider creating a new benefits option with a lower premium rate for the 2012 plan year or a subsequent plan year; and
3. It requires the Maine Education Association Benefits Trust to include a representative appointed by the Maine School Boards Association to serve as a member of the board of trustees of the trust no later than January 1, 2012.

LD 430	Resolve, To Name the Maine Fire Training and Education Program at Southern Maine Community College the Maine Fire Service Institute	RESOLVE 8
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY	OTP	

This resolve directs Southern Maine Community College to name its fire training and education program the Maine Fire Service Institute.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2011, chapter 8 directs the Southern Maine Community College to name its fire training and education program the Maine Fire Service Institute.