

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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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.

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that the department is not required to report on data at a level of detail that does not exist on the effective date of this legislation, and directs the department to provide the reports within its existing resources.

LD 568 Resolve, To Establish an Early Childhood Stakeholder Group

**VETO
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND	OTP-AM	S-259

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to create a unified early childhood education system that will result in more effective use of limited resources and produce improved outcomes.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-259)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve requiring the Maine Children's Growth Council to establish and convene a stakeholder group to identify options and alternatives to improve the efficacy and efficiency of Maine's early childhood system. The Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services are required to provide technical assistance to the stakeholder group. The stakeholder group is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services that includes the findings of the stakeholder group, including options and alternatives developed by the stakeholder group and any analysis by the departments of those options and alternatives. The report may include suggested legislation.

LD 569 An Act To Support and Encourage the Use of Online Textbooks

PUBLIC 354

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND	OTP-AM	S-186

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to enact measures designed to support and encourage the use of online textbooks.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-186)

This amendment replaces the concept draft with a bill to direct the Commissioner of Education to develop a program of technical assistance, including professional development and training for instruction in digital literacy and the establishment of a clearinghouse for information on the use of online learning resources that may be made available to all schools, including those schools that participate in the learning through technology program that provides one-to-one wireless computers for seventh grade, eighth grade and high school students and educators. The amendment establishes the Digital Literacy Fund, to be administered by the Department of Education. Any private or public funds appropriated, allocated or dedicated to the fund may be used to pay for the development of a program of technical assistance. The amendment also authorizes the Commissioner of Education to expend funds allocated to the learning through technology program for the costs of providing the program of technical assistance. The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 354 directs the Commissioner of Education to develop a program of technical assistance,

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including professional development and training for instruction in digital literacy and the establishment of a clearinghouse for information on the use of online learning resources that may be made available to all schools, including those schools that participate in the learning through technology program that provides one-to-one wireless computers for seventh grade, eighth grade and high school students and educators. The law establishes the Digital Literacy Fund, to be administered by the Department of Education. Any private or public funds appropriated, allocated or dedicated to the fund may be used to pay for the development of a program of technical assistance. The law also authorizes the Commissioner of Education to expend funds allocated to the learning through technology program for the costs of providing the program of technical assistance.

LD 579 *Resolve, To Study the Creation of a School of Hospitality and Hotel Management within the University of Maine System*

**RESOLVE 53
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ	OTP-AM	S-70

This resolve is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The resolve proposes to have the University of Maine System study the creation of a degree program for hospitality and hotel management within the university system.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-70)

This amendment replaces the concept draft with a resolve that directs the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to establish a stakeholder group to explore the creation of a baccalaureate degree program for hospitality and hotel management within the system. The amendment also provides that the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System shall present a report, including its conclusions and any recommendations resulting from the review, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 31, 2012, which may introduce a bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2011, chapter 53 directs the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to establish a stakeholder group to explore the creation of a baccalaureate degree program for hospitality and hotel management within the system. The resolve also provides that the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System shall present a report, including its conclusions and any recommendations resulting from the review, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 31, 2012. The joint standing committee may introduce a bill during the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature related to the report.

Resolve 2011, chapter 53 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 31, 2011.

LD 598 *An Act To Provide Assistance to Economically Disadvantaged Students*

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOHNSON P THOMAS	ONTP	

This bill provides an adjustment for a school administrative unit that is a minimum subsidy receiver if its percentage of economically disadvantaged students is greater than the state average.

While this bill was not enacted, Public Law 2011, chapter 419 (LD 1274) includes the initiative proposed in this bill.