

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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This bill requires secondary school students to complete a federally accepted free application for federal student aid and at least one application to a postsecondary educational institution to assess eligibility for financial aid.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-260)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. It provides exceptions to the proposed requirement that a student must complete an application to a postsecondary educational institution and a free application for federal student aid prior to receiving a high school diploma. The majority report was not adopted.

LD 949

Resolve, To Require the Department of Education To Submit a Plan for the Implementation of Standards-based Education

RESOLVE 83

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND	OTP-AM	S-236

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to amend the current education laws to update the graduation requirements for the State's high schools and would establish a standards-based system as follows.

1. In order to graduate from high school, a student would have to demonstrate proficiency in all eight content areas outlined in the system of learning results established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209. In addition, students would be required to be engaged in learning English and mathematics during each of their four years of high school study, or during every year of their high school career if they graduate early.
2. Beginning with the class of 2014, students graduating from the State's high schools also would demonstrate proficiency in each of the five guiding principles outlined in the Department of Education Rule Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction.
3. School administrative units and schools would be required to create a decision-making system for graduation that enhances or replaces the current system of credit accumulation for graduation. In addition to local requirements that could include the accumulation of credits, students would build a body of evidence that demonstrates their achievement of specific content area learning standards and the goals established in the guiding principles. This evidence would come from across the content areas, would include student efforts within and outside of the school building over an extended period of time and consist of student-designed assignments and assessments, as well as teacher-designed assignments and assessments.
4. The Department of Education would create a series of rubrics for schools to use in evaluating the student's body of evidence and assigning a score to this work. Students would be expected to present their body of evidence to an audience that includes educators from the school as well as parents and key community members chosen by the student. The presentation could be a single event or a series of events taking place when students are prepared to demonstrate readiness, not on a uniform or preconceived timeline.
5. Students would be able to decide to graduate from high school sooner or continue longer than the traditional four-year time frame, placing increased emphasis on the quality of learning rather than the time it takes each student to achieve such learning. The results of these decisions would be noted on a student's transcript as part of the student's permanent record.
6. Schools would be required to report student learning in terms of proficiency in each content area standard delineated in the system of learning results and each of the guiding principles to students and parents at the end of

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each grading period. Scoring decisions would be made by educators from the school administrative unit or the school and would incorporate input from other participants.

7. To ensure a level of trustworthiness of these decisions, samples of student work and local decisions would be submitted and reviewed by the Department of Education periodically to ensure that the standard for graduation retains a level of consistency across the State. Students would have multiple opportunities to demonstrate success and different formats, using multiple measures, to engage in this process.

8. With respect to the guiding principles, each school administrative unit would put in place an assessment system that uses rubrics to pass judgment on student performance on multiple examples of student work completed over time. The Department of Education would develop a set of rubrics aligned with each of the guiding principles that can be used for this purpose.

9. Each school administrative unit's standards-based system of high school graduation would be reviewed and approved annually during the basic school approval process as set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 206. A school administrative unit may choose to create and use different rubrics pending approval by the Department of Education through the basic school approval process.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-236)

This amendment replaces the concept draft with a resolve directing the Department of Education to develop and submit a plan for the implementation of standards-based education, including awarding high school diplomas to students who demonstrate proficiency in meeting state standards in all eight content areas of the system of learning results established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2011, chapter 83 directs the Department of Education to develop and submit a plan for the implementation of standards-based education, including awarding high school diplomas to students who demonstrate proficiency in meeting state standards in all eight content areas of the system of learning results established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209.

LD 952 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the School Revolving Renovation Fund ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY	ONTP	

This bill amends the laws governing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to provide that repairs and renovations to improve energy efficiency qualify for first priority status in determining which loans to school administrative units are approved. It also increases from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 the maximum loan amount from the fund to address first priority, second priority or third priority projects. It increases from \$3,000,000 to \$9,000,000 the maximum total loans from the fund for which a school building is eligible.