

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
125<sup>TH</sup> 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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 1269      An Act To Require That the Taking of a Statewide Assessment Test for High School Seniors Be Voluntary      ONTP**

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

This bill allows students in grade 12 to choose to not take an assessment test administered by their school, including the preliminary scholastic assessment test, or PSAT, or the scholastic assessment test, or SAT.

**LD 1273      An Act To Establish a 2-week Quiet Period for School Teams      ONTP**

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

This bill prohibits the coach or other advisor of a school athletic team or other school-organized and affiliated team from having any contact with members of the team during the two-week period immediately prior to the beginning of that team's traditional competitive season. This bill prohibits the team or a school-affiliated booster club or support group aligned with that team from engaging in fund-raising during that same two-week period. This bill also prohibits a school administrative unit from being a member of any statewide interscholastic association that places more restrictive limits on contact by coaches or fund-raising.

**LD 1274      An Act To Restore Equity in Education Funding      PUBLIC 419**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAYE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-240 S-273 RAYE

This bill amends several provisions of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act to more equitably allocate state funds that are appropriated for essential programs and services. The bill makes the following changes.

1. It amends the definition of "property fiscal capacity" in order to base the local school administrative unit's fiscal capacity on the most recent certified state valuation or the average of the certified state valuation for the three years prior to the most recently certified state valuation, whichever is lower. This change provides a more accurate determination of a school administrative unit's fiscal capacity while protecting those school administrative units that are experiencing increasing property valuation.

2. It amends the staffing ratios established to determine the calculation of salary and benefit costs for school-level staff positions by providing a 10% reduction in the staffing ratios for school administrative units with a total school population of less than 1,200 students. This change recognizes that school administrative units with fewer than 1,200 students still have to provide certain levels of instruction, support and administrative positions that do not