

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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C. For a child with a disability who is expelled by a school board, the superintendent may, as necessary, provide the reentry plan to the student's individualized education program team.

4. It strikes the provision that requires a school board to use suspensions and expulsions only as a last resort when taking disciplinary action against a student who has violated the school administrative unit's student code of conduct.

5. It amends the changes to the compulsory school age statutes by reducing the age threshold under which a child who has not attained high school graduation or equivalency is expected to attend secondary school from 20 to 18 years of age. The amendment also makes technical changes to clarify the exceptions to the compulsory school age requirements.

6. It strikes the proposed changes to the truancy laws that would have counted excused absences, as well as unexcused absences, towards the number of days of absences that would determine when a student is truant.

7. It strikes procedural provisions proposed in the bill and makes technical changes to clarify the role of superintendents, principals, attendance coordinators and the student assistance team or other systems of intervention established by the school administrative unit pertaining to assessing situations of student truancy and developing and implementing intervention plans for truant students.

8. It strikes the provisions in the bill pertaining to the qualifications of school attendance coordinators and the provisions that propose to establish that the salary costs of attendance coordinators are eligible for state subsidy under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.

This bill was carried over to any special and/or regular session of the 125th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1190.

LD 1540

An Act To Encourage Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education

**PUBLIC 346
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHNEIDER	OTP-AM	S-177

This bill establishes the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council to develop strategies for enhancing science, technology, engineering and mathematics education from prekindergarten through postsecondary education.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-177)

The bill establishes the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council. This amendment makes the following changes to the bill:

1. It adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause;
2. It adds the President of the Maine Maritime Academy to the ex officio members of the council;
3. It allows the ex officio members to designate a person to represent them on the council;
4. It adds three new members to the council, including a representative of:
 - A. The State Board of Education;

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B. An equivalent instruction program that is approved as an alternative to public school as set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 5001-A, subsection 3; and

C. The business sector who employs workers with training in science, technology, engineering or mathematics;

5. It staggers the initial appointment of council members; and

6. It allows the council to form subcommittees of no fewer than three members.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 346 establishes the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council to develop strategies for enhancing science, technology, engineering and mathematics education from prekindergarten through postsecondary education.

Public Law 2011, chapter 346 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 14, 2011.

LD 1553 An Act To Create a Public Charter School Program in Maine

PUBLIC 414

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON	OTP-AM A OTP-AM B ONTP C	H-637 BELIVEAU S-301

This bill establishes a process to authorize the establishment of public charter schools in the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-301)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill to amend and clarify the process to authorize the establishment of public charter schools in the State.

1. It directs the Department of Education to establish standards for authorizers of public charter schools and authorizes the department to investigate and sanction an authorizer of public charter schools that is found to be deficient or in noncompliance with the standards.
2. It requires that the Department of Education adopt major substantive rules to implement the public charter school program.
3. It provides enrollment limitations to protect smaller noncharter public schools during the first three years of a public charter school's operation.
4. It removes the provision that proposed to require school administrative units to provide notice to parents and the public regarding the opportunity to enroll students in a public charter school.
5. It removes certain colleges as authorizers of charter schools.
6. It removes unnecessary provisions from service contract provisions.
7. It adds qualifications to the requirements for appointing certain members to the State Charter School Commission