

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

June 2012

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STATE OF MAINE

125TH LEGISLATURE
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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 Second 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.

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature is Thursday, August 30, 2012. 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

This bill is introduced by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4 to implement the recommendations of the committee resulting from its review of the program evaluation report submitted by the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act.

The bill repeals the authority of the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority to issue revenue bonds and other obligations and loan the proceeds to one or more student loan corporations for the purpose of issuing low-cost loans to qualified students to assist the students in attending institutions for higher education and lowering the cost to the students or their parents of financing the students' educations. The Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority has not used this authority since the mid-1980s and this authority is no longer considered necessary by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 595 repeals the authority of the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority to issue revenue bonds and other obligations and loan the proceeds to one or more student loan corporations for the purpose of issuing low-cost loans to qualified students to assist the students in attending institutions for higher education and lowering the cost to the students or their parents of financing the students' educations.

LD 1908

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group To Review the Maine State Grant Program

PUBLIC 642

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

OTP

This bill implements certain recommendations made to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by the stakeholder group to review the Maine State Grant Program pursuant to Resolve 2011, chapter 14. It modifies the Maine State Grant Program by eliminating reciprocity of the grant with other states; removes the statutory cap of 5% on grant awards to part-time students; removes the grant award differences between public and private institutions; permits the Finance Authority of Maine to establish by rule tiered award amounts; limits grant eligibility to 10 semesters or the equivalent thereof; and allows the authority to address via rulemaking certain exceptions to award denials.

The bill also requires the Finance Authority of Maine to conduct a review of the Maine State Grant Program every 10 years. The authority is required to submit a written report of the findings of the review, including any proposed legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The first decennial review is due on or before January 1, 2021.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 642 makes the following changes to the Maine State Grant Program.

1. It eliminates reciprocity of the grant with other states.
2. It removes the statutory cap of 5% on grant awards to part-time students.
3. It removes the grant award differences between public and private institutions.
4. It permits the Finance Authority of Maine to establish by rule tiered award amounts.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

5. It limits grant eligibility to 10 semesters or the equivalent thereof.
6. It allows the authority to address via rulemaking certain exceptions to award denials.

The law also requires the Finance Authority of Maine to conduct a review of the Maine State Grant Program every 10 years. The authority is required to submit a written report of the findings of the review, including any proposed legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The first decennial review is due on or before January 1, 2021.