

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
126<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 2013

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# STATE OF MAINE

126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126<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 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 9, 2013. 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*

instruction and by limiting the ability of the public school principal or the principal's designee to deny participation to situations where the school cannot reasonably accommodate the student's participation.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-53)**

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment limits public school resources and services available to students enrolled in private schools to only those students enrolled in certain private schools recognized by the Department of Education as providing equivalent instruction.

The amendment provides that the principal of a public school may deny the request of a student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program to participate in a cocurricular, extracurricular or interscholastic activity only if the school does not have the capacity to provide the student with the opportunity to participate in the activity. If approval for participation is withheld by the principal, the principal must provide a written explanation to the student or the student's parent or guardian stating the reason or reasons for the decision.

The amendment provides that a student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program is not eligible to participate in a cocurricular, interscholastic or extracurricular activity at a public school if the private school the student attends already provides that same activity.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-332)**

This amendment adds a mandate preamble.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 428 limits public school resources and services available to students enrolled in private schools to only those students enrolled in certain private schools recognized by the Department of Education as providing equivalent instruction. The law provides that the principal of a public school may deny the request of a student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program to participate in a cocurricular, extracurricular or interscholastic activity only if the school does not have the capacity to provide the student with the opportunity to participate in the activity. If approval for participation is withheld by the principal, the principal must provide a written explanation to the student or the student's parent or guardian stating the reason or reasons for the decision. The law also provides that a student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program is not eligible to participate in a cocurricular, interscholastic or extracurricular activity at a public school if the private school the student attends already provides that same activity.

**LD 93      An Act To Require Public Secondary Schools To Offer a Course in Gun Safety and Handling      ONTP**

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

This bill requires public secondary schools to offer a firearm safety and handling course that is optional for students.

**LD 112      An Act To Make Changes to the Educators for Maine Program      PUBLIC 7**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NELSON CRAVEN	OTP	

## *Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

This bill changes the Educators for Maine Program by including certain participants in the Jobs for Maine's Graduates program as eligible for loan forgiveness.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 7 changes the Educators for Maine Program by including certain participants in the Jobs for Maine's Graduates program as eligible for loan forgiveness.

### **LD 113      An Act To Make Changes to the Maine College Savings Program**

**PUBLIC 4**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MACDONALD W MILLETT	OTP	

This bill makes changes to the Maine College Savings Program, also known as NextGen or the NextGen College Investing Plan, by adding financial education to the list of permissible program fund uses.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 4 makes changes to the Maine College Savings Program, also known as NextGen or the NextGen College Investing Plan, by adding financial education to the list of permissible program fund uses.

### **LD 130      An Act To Stabilize Education Funding by Reducing the Impact of Changes in Property Valuation**

**PUBLIC 203**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT MALABY	OTP-AM	S-128

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to stabilize state funding for education by requiring the property fiscal capacity component of the essential programs and services funding formula to be based on a rolling 5-year average of the property values of a municipality included in a school administrative unit.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-128)**

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. This amendment stabilizes state funding for education by requiring the property fiscal capacity component of the essential programs and services funding formula to be based on a 2-year average of the property values of the municipalities included in a school administrative unit in fiscal year 2014-15 and to be based on a 3-year average of the property values of the municipalities included in a school administrative unit in fiscal year 2015-16 and each succeeding fiscal year.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 203 stabilizes state funding for education by requiring the property fiscal capacity component of the essential programs and services funding formula to be based on a 2-year average of the property values of the municipalities included in a school administrative unit in fiscal year 2014-15 and to be based on a 3-year average of the property values of the municipalities included in a school administrative unit in fiscal year 2015-16 and each succeeding fiscal year.