

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH 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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126TH 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 126th 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 126th 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

This resolve requires the Department of Education to examine the options for the administration of a high school equivalency examination and to develop a plan for the continued availability of a high school equivalency examination. The department shall submit its report and plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by April 1, 2013.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-172)

This amendment strikes the emergency preamble and the emergency clause from the resolve and amends the resolve to provide that the review conducted by the Department of Education on the options for the administration of a high school equivalency examination must include an analysis of the implementation costs that would be required to transition to a computer-based high school equivalency examination. The amendment also requires that the department's plan for the continued availability of a high school equivalency examination must also address the continued state funding support and technical assistance necessary to transition to a computer-based high school equivalency examination. The amendment changes the reporting date to October 1, 2013.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2013, chapter 49 requires the Department of Education to examine the options for the administration of a high school equivalency examination and to develop a plan for the continued availability of a high school equivalency examination. The review conducted by the department must include an analysis of the implementation costs that would be required to transition to a computer-based high school equivalency examination. The department's plan for the continued availability of a high school equivalency examination must also address the continued state funding support and technical assistance necessary to transition to a computer-based high school equivalency examination. The department shall submit its report and plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by October 1, 2013.

LD 462 An Act To Dedicate Funds for Emergency Back-up Power for Schools ONTP

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

This bill provides that if a school administrative unit participates in the Percent for Art Program it must use at least 1/2 of the amount identified for this purpose to provide back-up electrical power to the school, building or facility being constructed.

LD 464 An Act To Change Compensation for Career and Technical Education CARRIED OVER
Region Cooperative Board Meeting Attendance

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHAPMAN	OTP-AM	

This bill increases the compensation for a career and technical education region cooperative board member from \$10 to \$20 for each meeting the member attends.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-279)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

This bill was committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

H-C (H-582).

LD 466 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Awarding a High School Diploma to Veterans

PUBLIC 281

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN TUTTLE	OTP-AM	H-471

This bill directs the Department of Education with assistance from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to issue honorary secondary school diplomas to qualifying veterans of the United States Armed Forces who did not finish secondary school.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-471)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill to make changes that are consistent with the current statutory provisions established for awarding a high school diploma to qualifying veterans of the United States Armed Forces who did not finish secondary school during certain periods of wartime. The amendment adds provisions to the current law that allow for awarding a high school diploma to a qualifying veteran who did not finish secondary school during the period of wartime or peacetime that followed World War II, the Korean Conflict or the Vietnam War.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 281 make changes that are consistent with the current statutory provisions established for awarding a high school diploma to qualifying veterans of the United States Armed Forces who did not finish secondary school during certain periods of wartime. The law allows for awarding a high school diploma to a qualifying veteran who did not finish secondary school during the period of wartime or peacetime that followed World War II, the Korean Conflict or the Vietnam War.

LD 481 Resolve, To Review the Laws Governing the Funding of Virtual Public Charter Schools

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill amends the laws governing virtual public charter schools to:

1. Require the authorizer of a virtual public charter school to review and approve the courses and curricula for the virtual public charter school prior to the beginning of each school year;
2. Require that education personnel operating a virtual public charter school hold valid teacher certification in the State;
3. Require that each virtual public charter school student receive at least 2 personal visits from a teacher during each school year; and
4. Provide that only 20% of the per-pupil allocation of state and local operating funds follows the student to a virtual public charter school.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-437)