

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

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)

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, amends the bill to provide that part-time teachers must also meet the teacher employment provisions of the public charter school law. The amendment also directs the Department of Education, in consultation with the Maine Charter School Commission, to review funding provisions related to determining the per-pupil allocation amount necessary for the costs of operating virtual public charter schools and validating the appropriate amount of operating costs that should be provided for students enrolled in virtual public charter schools and report the results of its review to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-438)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes the bill and replaces it with a resolve that directs the Department of Education, in consultation with the Maine Charter School Commission, to review funding provisions related to determining the per-pupil allocation amount necessary for the costs of operating virtual public charter schools and validating the appropriate amount of operating costs that should be provided for students enrolled in virtual public charter schools and report the results of its review to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

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 H-C (H-582).

LD 485 An Act To Amend and Clarify Certain Education Laws

PUBLIC 167

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOHNSON P LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-149

This bill amends and clarifies certain education laws. Part A amends and clarifies requirements for the withdrawal of a municipality from a regional school unit and provides that annual audits must include a schedule of expenditures of federal funds. Part B:

1. Amends and clarifies allowable debt service costs for state-funded school construction projects and repeals obsolete language;
2. Clarifies when design and funding approval by the State Board of Education is granted;
3. Clarifies that a local school unit will be notified by the Commissioner of Education only after any approved vote has been considered by the State Board of Education; and
4. Clarifies statutory language requiring the compliance review of state-funded school construction projects.

Part C:

1. Revises the definition of "adult education" to provide that adult education programs must be provided through a career pathways and service system and to include adult workforce training and retraining and adult career and technical education in the list of adult education courses;
2. Provides that career and technical education regions may offer only adult career and technical education and adult workforce training and retraining courses and must perform intake and data management functions;
3. Removes career pathways learners from the list of learners served by adult workforce training and retraining;