

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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STATE OF MAINE

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

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 53 requires the Department of Education to adopt rules on standards for schools and school administrative units for suicide prevention education and training. The training and education will include suicide prevention awareness education for all personnel and more advanced suicide prevention and intervention training for at least 2 persons per school district. The law also provides that rules adopted by the department on standards for suicide awareness education and suicide prevention and intervention training for school personnel are routine technical rules, but that, beginning July 1, 2014, any subsequent changes to rules are major substantive rules.

LD 615 An Act To Protect School Administrative Units from a Sudden Decrease ONTP
in Funding due to Reduced Enrollments

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCABE CAIN	ONTP	

This bill allows a school administrative unit to request reimbursement from the State when the unit has experienced a sudden and severe loss of funding due to the enrollment of students from that unit in public charter schools. The bill establishes criteria that a school administrative unit must meet to qualify for reimbursement. It also establishes a process by which school administrative units may petition the Commissioner of Education for reimbursement of a portion of the lost funds. The bill also establishes a reimbursement formula that the commissioner must use to calculate reimbursement amounts for qualifying school administrative units.

LD 623 An Act To Promote the Attainment of Higher Education Degrees ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT CUSHING	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to adjust the disbursement of financial aid packages to provide an incentive for a student enrolled in a postsecondary institution to complete that student's degree. Instead of providing the total amount of financial aid up front, leading to the exhaustion of available aid prior to the completion of course work, this bill would spread the financial aid out over the course of a student's enrollment. The intent of the bill is to ensure that enough financial aid is available to allow a student who is within 15 credits of completing the necessary requirements for graduation to pay for those credits.

See Part J of Committee Amendment "A" to LD 90 for provisions related to the purposes of this bill.

LD 638 An Act To Require That School Budget Referenda Be Held on the Same ONTP
Day as Primary Elections

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITTEMORE DUNPHY	ONTP	

This bill requires a regional school unit board to hold a regional school unit budget meeting no later than 30 days