

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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STAFF:

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JON CLARK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

STATE OF MAINE

126TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

chapter 208-A in order for the definition to apply to the entire chapter and clarifies that "secondary school student" includes a student enrolled in an adult education program or participating in an approved home instruction program;

- 2. It requires that in order to be eligible to receive state subsidy for postsecondary courses, a secondary school student must be a Maine resident;
- 3. It limits the total number of secondary school students enrolled in a postsecondary school course to no more than 1/3 of the total number of students enrolled in the course;
- 4. It requires the school administrative unit to inform a student enrolled in a postsecondary school course of the extent to which high school credit will be granted toward graduation requirements as a result of successfully completing the course;
- 5. In current law, the department pays 50% of the in-state tuition for the first 3 credit hours taken each semester. The amendment doubles the amount to 6 credits;
- 6. It reduces the percentage of total funding available that can be used to support secondary school students enrolled in summer term courses; and
- 7. It increases the membership of the Commission on Expanding Early Postsecondary Access for High School Students from 19 to 20.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-328)

This amendment removes the Commission on Expanding Early Postsecondary Access for High School Students from the bill.

LD 994 An Act To Change the State's Share of Education Costs Including Teacher Retirement Costs ONTP

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

This bill provides that the total cost of teacher retirement, including the normal cost and the actual unfunded liability, must be funded through the state and local cost-sharing formula for funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. The bill also changes the target for the state share of the total costs of education from 55% to 52%.

LD 995 An Act To Establish a Moratorium on the Approval and Operation of Virtual Public Charter Schools CARRIED OVER

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

This emergency bill provides that the Maine Charter School Commission may not authorize the operation of any virtual public charter school until the Legislature enacts legislation that expressly authorizes the operation of virtual public charter schools in the State. The moratorium applies to the operations of any virtual public charter school that has not commenced operations as of the effective date of this legislation, regardless of whether the commission has approved, authorized or executed a contract for the virtual public charter school.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

The bill amends the definition of "virtual public charter school" to specify that virtual public charter schools provide education services through an online learning program that enrolls students on a part-time basis in grades 9 to 12. The bill also requires the Maine Charter School Commission to review the law and the virtual public charter school models that have been implemented in other states and develop a virtual public charter school model that will best serve the learning needs of students. The virtual public charter school model developed must apply only to part-time students in grades 9 to 12 and must place emphasis on blended learning models for high school students.

The Maine Charter School Commission is directed to report its findings, recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation with respect to the authorization or operation of virtual public charter schools to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 1, 2013 and authorizes the joint standing committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature related to the recommendations included in this report.

This bill was 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 1002 An Act Regarding the Required Local Contribution in the School Funding Formula LEAVE TO WITHDRAW

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAREY		

This bill modifies the provision of the essential programs and services school funding formula that provides that the state share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 is limited to the same proportion as the local school administrative unit raises of its required contribution to the total cost of education. The bill specifies that this limitation does not apply if a majority of the residents within that school administrative unit reside in municipalities eligible to receive funds from the Disproportionate Tax Burden Fund established under the State's municipal revenue sharing program.

LD 1003 Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study Accessibility and Affordability of Higher Education ONTP

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

This resolve establishes the Commission To Study Accessibility and Affordability of Higher Education.

LD 1019 An Act To Protect the State's Property Rights in Maine State Museum Research PUBLIC 205 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KESCHL KATZ	OTP-AM	H-188

This bill exempts from the Freedom of Access Act historical research that includes an individual's personally identifiable information such as medical, psychiatric, employment, counseling or law enforcement records or information directly related to that individual's parent or child. The bill also exempts from the Freedom of Access