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
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.

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**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
TREAT	ONTP	
CAIN		

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**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KESCHL	OTP-AM	H-188
KATZ		

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