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

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.

LD 1096   **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Students Experiencing Education Disruption**

HELD BY GOVERNOR

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LANGLEY	OTP-AM	S-243
		S-347 HILL

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing students who experience an education disruption.

1. It redefines "education disruption" to eliminate disruption caused by homelessness or foster care and adds enrollment in three or more schools or educational programs in a single school year.

2. It modifies the standards for diplomas issued by the Department of Education to students who experience education disruption to require achievement of the content standards of the system of learning results only, eliminating the requirement the student meet any other standards that are set forth in the school work recognition plan or specified by the school attended by the student.

3. It modifies the process by which diplomas are issued by the Department of Education to provide that the student applies to the commissioner and supplies evidence of achievement, that the commissioner forms a review team to review the evidence and make recommendations to the commissioner and the commissioner then makes the final determination.

4. It modifies the law governing school work recognition plans. It designates a responsible school for preparing the school work recognition plan and certain other materials. It removes a provision allowing the plan to be developed through email or teleconferencing, a provision providing that a plan is not required if an existing plan such as an individualized education plan or a transition plan addresses school completion, and the requirement that the plan include any local diploma requirements beyond state learning results. It establishes the process and responsibility for school work recognition plans in cases where the disruption is caused by enrollment in 3 or more schools or educational programs in a single school year.

This bill also modifies the law governing excusable absences from compulsory attendance to include the new definition of "education disruption", thus eliminating from excusable absences those resulting from disruptions caused by homelessness or foster care and disruptions from an interim placement that results in an absence of less than 10 days.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-243)

This amendment:

1. Removes the provision of the bill that alters the law governing compulsory attendance and excused absences, leaving in place the current law;

2. Amends the bill's definition of "education disruption" to include homelessness and foster care placement and identifies the school in which the student is enrolled or entitled to enroll as the responsible school for developing a school work recognition plan; and

3. Repeals a provision of law that is replaced by new provisions included in the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-347)

This amendment adds a mandate preamble.