

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.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

school board. The law also permits a school board to initiate and collaborate with one or more of the public schools it operates to create an innovation plan. The law provides that a school board may obtain waivers of laws, rules and local policy requirements from the Commissioner of Education that are considered necessary for a teacher-led school to implement an innovation plan. The law also allows for grants from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services for the costs associated with establishing a teacher-led school.

LD 1123 **An Act To Allow the Town of Bancroft To Withdraw from Its Regional School Unit without Penalty** **LEAVE TO WITHDRAW**

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

This bill exempts the Town of Bancroft from school reorganization requirements and associated penalties for withdrawal from its regional school unit because the Town of Bancroft has filed legislation with the Legislature for approval to deorganize.

LD 1128 **An Act To Provide for Greater Public Input and Local Control in the Chartering of Public Schools** **VETO SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND MCCABE	OTP-AM OTP-AM	S-227

This bill requires that any person, group or organization, prior to filing an application for a public charter school with the Maine Charter School Commission, must hold at least 3 public hearings in the region that would be affected by the operation of the public charter school. The organizers must also meet the following requirements:

1. Provide the public with the best estimates possible regarding the impact on funding, student enrollment, courses and teachers in both the public schools and the proposed public charter school;
2. Announce to the persons who attend a public hearing that they have the right to provide the Maine Charter School Commission with their opinions and concerns about the proposed plan to operate a public charter school in the region in which they reside;
3. Hold a vote to determine if the persons who attend a public hearing are in favor of the organizers' proposed plan to operate a public charter school in the region in which the persons reside; and
4. Provide the Maine Charter School Commission with an objective summary of the public comments presented at each public hearing, the discussions that occurred between organizers and the persons who attended the public hearings and the result of the vote held at the public hearings.

The bill provides that the Maine Charter School Commission may accept an application for a public charter school only if the organizers of the proposed public charter school meet each of the requirements and if the majority of the persons that attended the public hearings held by the organizers voted in favor of the proposed plan to operate a public charter school in the region.

Finally, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education to review the current funding laws and rules for public charter schools and to submit proposed legislation that provides options for funding public charter schools, including but not limited to establishing a new General Fund program account to pay for public charter schools and