

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

establishing an adjustment to the state share of the total allocation or authorizing a miscellaneous cost for the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program as set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606-B so that the State allocates funds for operating public charter schools in a manner that results in all municipalities sharing the costs of public charter schools.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-227)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, amends the bill to provide 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 one public hearing in the region that would be affected by the operation of the public charter school. The amendment strikes the provision in the bill that would have required organizers to 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 addition to the remaining public hearing requirements included in the bill that must be met by organizers before the commission may accept the organizers' applications, the organizers must also meet the following requirements:

1. Send an invitation to each public hearing held by the organizers to the school board members of each of the school administrative units located in the catchment area that would be affected by the operation of the public charter school;
2. Invite written feedback from the local school boards located in the catchment area that would be affected by the operation of the public charter school, including the results of a nonbinding advisory vote held by the local school board on the question of whether the local school board members favor the organizers' proposed plan to operate a public charter school in the region; and
3. Provide the commission with an objective summary of the public comments presented at each public hearing, the discussions that occurred between the organizers and the persons who attended the public hearings, the feedback from the local school boards located in the catchment area that would be affected by the operation of the public charter school and the result of the nonbinding advisory votes held by local school boards located in the catchment area to determine if the local school board members are in favor of the organizers' proposed plan to operate a public charter school in the region. The amendment also strikes the provision in the bill that 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.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-228)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, strikes the bill title and the bill and replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the Maine Charter School Commission to review the provisions in statutes and rules related to the opportunities for public input in the public charter school application process, including the commission's procedures for reviewing and evaluating public charter school applications. The amendment provides that, prior to issuing a request for proposals after the effective date of this resolve, the commission must make changes that provide for additional opportunities for public input in the public charter school application process and the commission's procedures for reviewing and evaluating public charter school applications.

LD 1129 An Act To Promote Innovation in Public Schools

**VETO
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND MAKER	OTP-AM	S-291 H-548 MACDONALD W

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to require the Department of Education to establish a website by the spring of 2013 where various educational and teaching models can be reviewed by school districts and to develop an annual summer seminar where school districts can learn about different education and teaching models.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-291)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill with a resolve that provides for the implementation of standards-based learning models across the State as a means to significantly improve the success rate of Maine students and to foster education opportunities and growth. The amendment directs the Department of Education to establish a website to post exemplary models and best practices of deeper learning educational models and resources that can enable school administrative units to transition to a standards-based system of education that includes proficiency-based standards for awarding a high school diploma. In addition, the Department of Education is required to hold a statewide conference no later than June 20, 2014 as a means of educating the entire State about standards-based or deeper learning models, as well as a series of teleconferences between October 20, 2013 and June 20, 2014 that will provide support for school systems throughout the State as they implement standards-based learning or deeper learning models.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-548)

This amendment requires the Commissioner of Education to hold an annual conference for school board members, superintendents, school administrators, educators and others, in order to share best practices and showcase innovative approaches to teaching and learning and post materials from the conference on the department's publicly accessible website. The Department of Education is required to hold the statewide conferences from 2014 to 2018 about standards-based or deeper learning models. The amendment also directs the Department of Education to post on its publicly accessible website exemplary models and best practices of deeper learning educational models and resources that can enable school administrative units to transition to a standards-based system of education that includes proficiency-based standards for awarding a high school diploma. In addition, the department is required to hold a series of teleconferences between October 20, 2013 and June 20, 2014 that will provide support for school systems throughout the State as they implement standards-based learning or deeper learning models.

LD 1130 An Act To Create a Virtual School Managed by the State

ONTP

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to establish a state-managed virtual school, which would:

1. Be designed to allow the State to maintain direct oversight over and apply stringent quality controls to the management of the school;
2. Use current in-state talent and, to the extent possible, rely on content prepared and shared by teachers within the State;
3. Be designed to best deliver services to students and schools in the most cost-efficient manner; and
4. Focus on maximizing the delivery of course content and material to rural schools throughout the State.