

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

LD 1301

An Act To Create the Maine Education Investment Board

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

NELSON
LANGLEY

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill establishes the Maine Education Investment Board. The board consists of the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee, members of various sectors of the State's publicly supported educational entities and 2 public members. The board shall develop and enter into annual achievement compacts with the State's educational entities that receive public funds from the department and oversee the progress of the entities under those compacts to ensure that all public school students in this State reach the education outcomes established for the State from kindergarten to postsecondary education. The compacts must include strategies for streamlined transitions between grades and school systems, strategies to ensure that public school students meet the requirements for graduation and goals for high school and college graduation rates, strategies to ensure availability of high-quality career and technical education courses and fair measures for assessing teacher quality. The board shall also work on strategic projects assigned by the commissioner.

LD 1321

An Act To Promote Healthy School Lighting

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

BOLAND
TUTTLE

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill requires all public schools to install and maintain, for all new or replacement classroom lighting, lighting that meets color rendition standards adopted by rule by the Department of Education. Standards adopted by the department must ensure that the lighting has a color rendering index value of 90 or higher as determined in accordance with procedures and standards established by the International Commission on Illumination or as verified by the United States Department of Energy.

LD 1322

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Withdrawal of a Municipality from a Regional School Unit

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

LUCHINI
LANGLEY

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This emergency bill provides for a process of so-called final offer arbitration as a means to resolving a dispute between a withdrawal committee and the directors of the regional school unit board regarding an agreement for withdrawal for a municipality that seeks to withdraw from a regional school unit. The bill requires that, in the event that a withdrawal committee and the directors of the regional school unit board are unable to reach agreement on the provisions of an agreement for withdrawal, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the parties, shall appoint an arbitrator to assist the parties in the settlement of the dispute related to the agreement for withdrawal between the parties.

Current law requires that the total number of votes cast for and against the withdrawal agreement must equal or exceed 50% of the municipal votes cast for a candidate for Governor in the last gubernatorial election. This bill eliminates that requirement while still maintaining the requirement that the withdrawal agreement is approved by a majority vote. Finally, the bill removes changes made by Public Law 2011, chapter 678, Part J that would have