

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

May 2014

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. REBECCA J. MILLETT, CHAIR  
SEN. CHRISTOPHER K. JOHNSON  
SEN. BRIAN D. LANGLEY

REP. W. BRUCE MACDONALD, CHAIR  
REP. MARY P. NELSON  
REP. HELEN RANKIN  
REP. MATTHEA DAUGHTRY  
REP. BRIAN L. HUBBELL  
REP. VICTORIA P. KORNFELD  
REP. PETER B. JOHNSON  
REP. JOYCE A. MAKER  
REP. MICHAEL D. MCCLELLAN  
REP. MATTHEW G. POULIOT  
REP. MADONNA M. SOCTOMAH

**STAFF:**

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
KAREN NADEAU-DRILLEN, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND**  
**ENACTED LAWS**

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 Second Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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***

A school administrative unit required to operate a federal summer food service program may choose not to operate such a program if it determines by a vote of the governing body of the school administrative unit after notice and a public hearing that operating such a program would be financially or logistically impracticable.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-70)**

This amendment removes the requirement that if a school administrative unit chooses not to operate a federal summer food service program, it must notify parents of children in the school administrative unit of its decision and the reasons for its decision.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-359)**

This amendment adds a mandate preamble.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 445 requires a school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year to operate a federal summer food service program in the area served by that public school during the following summer vacation if that public school operates a summer educational or recreational program. The school administrative unit may collaborate with a service institution such as a local government, higher education institution or summer camp to operate the summer food service program.

Chapter 445 also requires such a school administrative unit that does not operate a summer educational or recreational program to collaborate with a service institution to operate a federal summer food service program if there is a service institution that provides food service to children in the summer in the area served by the public school.

A school administrative unit required to operate a federal summer food service program may choose not to operate such a program if it determines by a vote of the governing body of the school administrative unit after notice and a public hearing that operating such a program would be financially or logistically impracticable.

**LD 1361**

**An Act To Strengthen the Teaching of Writing and Mathematics and Improve Maine High School Graduates' College and Career Readiness**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
NELSON

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

The purpose of this bill is to strengthen the teaching of writing and mathematics in public schools in the State, to improve literacy and mathematics education and to improve Maine high school graduates' college and career readiness. The bill does the following.

1. It establishes a standards-based approach to assessing the proficiency and competency of new teachers and teachers seeking a renewal of a professional teacher certificate in order to prepare teachers and ensure that school administrative units are prepared to implement the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics.
2. It requires the Education Coordinating Committee to conduct a review of college placement tests, including the ACCUPLACER test, used by the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, the Maine Maritime Academy and secondary schools in the State to determine a high school graduate's college readiness.

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

3. It requires the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to establish graduation requirements that ensure that graduates of any baccalaureate degree program within the system can demonstrate writing competencies that are appropriate to the demands of careers that require a baccalaureate degree.

**LD 1530     An Act To Establish a Process for the Implementation of Universal  
Voluntary Public Preschool Programs for Children 4 Years of Age**

**PUBLIC 581**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODALL	OTP-AM	S-508
BERRY	OTP-AM	S-518   MILLETT
	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

The bill requires implementation of universal voluntary prekindergarten education by the 2017-2018 school year. The Commissioner of Education is required to establish a stakeholder group to work with the commissioner and interested parties to establish a plan to implement the requirement. The stakeholder group is required to develop standards for prekindergarten education programs, recommend uniform statewide procedures for screening children and assessing program performance and recommend best practices to coordinate early childhood education programs with child care providers. The commissioner is required to submit a report of the work of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2014, and the committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature regarding the report.

The bill also clarifies the role of the State Board of Education with regard to prekindergarten education, changes the compulsory age for school attendance from seven years of age to five years of age beginning July 1, 2016 and provides that funding provided to a school administrative unit for prekindergarten purposes may not be used for other purposes. The bill provides that the Commissioner of Education must provide implementation grants and provides funds for those grants and for a position in the Department of Education to oversee early childhood education programs.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-508)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and replaces the bill to provide that the implementation of universal voluntary public preschool programs by the 2018-2019 school year is subject to the extent that the State provides school administrative units with adequate funding to operate public preschool programs or provide for students to participate in such programs. The amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It strikes the term "prekindergarten" and inserts in its place the term "public preschool program," which currently is defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 23-A as a program offered by a public school that provides instruction to children who are four years of age.
2. It strikes the provisions in the bill that propose to change the compulsory age for school attendance from seven years of age to five years of age.
3. It amends the provision in Title 20-A that requires school boards to operate or otherwise provide for the availability of kindergarten programs for students in order to:
  - A. Provide that school boards must also operate or otherwise provide for the availability of public preschool programs for children four years of age to the extent that the State provides adequate funding to operate public preschool programs; and
  - B. Clarify that a school administrative unit is not required to expend local revenues to operate public preschool programs or to provide for students to participate in such programs.