

# 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  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2013

**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. KORNFIELD  
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  
JON CLARK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

# STATE OF MAINE

126<sup>TH</sup> 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 126<sup>th</sup> 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 126<sup>th</sup> 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*

and replaces the fund with provisions to authorize the Department of Education to establish the Maine Online Learning Collaborative, a partnership with a statewide consortium consisting of Maine school administrative units, public charter schools and approved private secondary schools that enroll 60% or more publicly funded students and other educational organizations to collaboratively develop a high-quality online learning program to commence in the 2014-2015 school year that provides students in grades 9 to 12 access to part-time digital learning through online and hybrid courses that are taught by Maine certified teachers. The amendment requires the Department of Education to develop approval criteria and a process for approving online learning providers to implement online learning programs with the Maine Online Learning Collaborative; and provides that the request for proposals must be reviewed and approved by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs before the request for proposals is publicized by the department. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**LD 1540**

**An Act To Fix and Improve the System Used To Evaluate or Rate Public Schools in Maine**

**DIED IN CONCURRENCE**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT MACDONALD W	OTP-AM ONTP	S-306

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to provide that if the Department of Education or any other state agency uses a system to evaluate or rate public schools:

1. The department or other state agency shall give notice to the public that such a system will be used, shall give an opportunity for the public and interested parties to provide input regarding the development of the system and shall convene a task force on the development and implementation of the system that includes but is not limited to representatives of the following stakeholder groups:

- A. Teachers;
- B. School boards;
- C. Superintendents;
- D. Parents; and
- E. Students;

2. The system must include:

- A. Accurate measures of student progress over at least 5 years;
- B. Rates of postsecondary school attendance and enlistment in the United States Armed Forces over at least 5 years;
- C. A peer group comparison that takes into account, but is not limited to, utilization of special education services, the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, local and county unemployment data and median household income;
- D. School attendance rates;
- E. Graduation rates; and

## *Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

F. Interviews with parents of students, members of governing boards of school administrative units, teachers and other education leaders about the overall school environment; and

3. The system may not use a bell curve and a school may not be penalized because of the failure of students to take certain standardized tests.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-306)**

This amendment, which is the majority report for the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, strikes and replaces the concept draft with an emergency bill that proposes to accomplish the following initiatives:

1. It provides that, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and only after the adoption of major substantive rules by the Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education shall implement a school assessment system to measure school performance and student proficiency in achieving the knowledge and skills described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 2 and Department of Education Rule Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction;

2. It provides that, until those rules are adopted, notwithstanding Title 20-A, section 6214 or any other provision of law, neither the department nor any other state agency may take any action based on the school grades reported on May 1, 2013 by the Commissioner of Education as part of a school performance grading system;

3. It provides that, notwithstanding any other provisions of Title 20-A, chapter 222, the commissioner may not provide a report of the statewide or school level results of the school assessment program until the final adoption of department rules adopted in accordance with Title 20-A, section 6214, subsection 3. It also provides that this provision may not be construed to prevent or inhibit the department from providing reports to comply with the federal statutes and regulations pertaining to student assessment as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It also provides that the rules must be consistent with the recommendations reported by the task force to develop a system to evaluate or rate the performance of public schools in the State;

4. It directs the commissioner to convene a task force to review school assessment systems that have been implemented in other states and to develop a system to evaluate or rate the performance of public schools in this State;

5. It provides that the commissioner must report the task force's findings, recommendations and any necessary legislation with respect to the implementation of a school assessment system to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than November 1, 2013 and authorizes the joint standing committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature related to the recommendations included in this report; and

6. It provides that the department must file provisionally adopted major substantive rules by January 10, 2014 to implement the school assessment system and that the rules must specify the methods to be used as part of the annual assessment of the performance of elementary and secondary schools and the proficiency of elementary and secondary school students beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.