

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

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**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*

- 4. It requires the governing board of a virtual public charter school to submit annually a performance report, operations report and independent financial audit to the Maine Charter School Commission and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.
- 5. It sets standards for teachers in virtual public charter schools.
- 6. It sets standards to maintain the integrity of student learning and assessment in virtual public charter schools.
- 7. It requires the Department of Education to adopt major substantive rules governing virtual public charter schools. These rules must include a method for funding virtual public charter schools based on the cost per unit of instruction provided in each subject area to each student. These unit costs may include teacher costs, based on the average cost per student to employ a teacher in this State; administrative costs; costs of facilities; and capital costs.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-796)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee replaces the bill to establish provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 112 related to funding for students enrolled in a virtual public charter school and to establish provisions in Title 20-A, chapter 802 related to funding for students enrolled in a full-time, online learning program established by a school administrative unit.

**LD 1630      An Act To Increase Transparency of Administration Costs within the University of Maine System      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THOMAS MAKER	ONTP	

The purpose of this bill is to enhance transparency in funding the University of Maine System. This bill requires that, beginning in fiscal year 2015-16, appropriations and allocations in the budget document and the budget bills for the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System must be separated into two separate line items: one reflecting those amounts to be allocated to the individual campuses of the University of Maine System and one reflecting those amounts to be used by the University of Maine System for administration costs.

**LD 1635      An Act To Clarify the School Budget Development Process in Certain Charter Municipalities      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRATWICK PRIEST	ONTP	

The school district reorganization law enacted in 2007 established a uniform school budget validation referendum process for state-approved units of school administration composed of two or more member municipalities. The new budget process requires that a state-approved unit of school administration composed of a single municipality must also integrate the referenda procedures with any school budget adoption procedures that may have been previously established in a municipal charter. This emergency bill clarifies in time for budgets developed after January 1, 2014 that the statute integrating the budget adoption law for municipal school units with municipal charters does not preempt municipal charter provisions that establish school budget development, review and recommendation procedures that occur prior to the meeting held by the municipal legislative body to vote on the school budget.