

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH 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
126TH 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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 126th 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

Under current law, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy are required to report on the number of remedial courses taken by students from each school administrative unit in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics. This bill requires those higher education institutions to report the costs to the students of those remedial courses, by school administrative unit, and requires the Commissioner of Education to reduce state subsidy to the school administrative units and to pay those funds to the higher education institutions. Those higher education institutions are required to use the funds to reduce or eliminate the costs of remedial courses to their students and to report to the Commissioner of Education and the Legislature how those funds were used to achieve the reduction or elimination of costs.

LD 1819 Resolve, To Create the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine

**RESOLVE 107
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND MACDONALD W	OTP-AM	S-454

This resolve establishes the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-454)

This amendment strikes the preamble and adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. It also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2013, chapter 107 establishes the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine.

Resolve 2013, chapter 107 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 16, 2014.

The law directs the task force to study issues associated with the creation of public-private partnership to provide expertise to school administrative units throughout the State in adopting best practices and maximizing available federal funds for addressing student hunger.

LD 1849 Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion

**RESOLVE 109
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP	S-468 MILLETT

This resolve is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Order 2013, S.P. 721. The resolve establishes the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion. The commission is directed to examine and make recommendations on the development of strategies to keep the cost of public postsecondary education in the State affordable and to increase the graduation rate of students enrolled in state-supported public institutions of higher education.

The commission is required to submit a report by December 9, 2014 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The report submitted by the commission must include findings, recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation to keep the cost of public postsecondary education in the State affordable and to increase the graduation rate of students enrolled in state-supported public institutions of higher education. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs may submit a bill related to this report to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senate Amendment "A" (S-468)

This amendment allows the commission to seek outside funding to defray the costs of its required study.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2013, chapter 109 establishes the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion. The commission is directed to examine and make recommendations on the development of strategies to keep the cost of public postsecondary education in the State affordable and to increase the graduation rate of students enrolled in state-supported public institutions of higher education. The resolve allows the commission to seek outside funding to defray the costs of its required study.

Chapter 109 requires the commission to submit a report, including findings, recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation, by December 9, 2014 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs may submit a bill related to this report to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Resolve 2013, chapter 109 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 29, 2014.

LD 1850 **Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula**

**RESOLVE 114
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP	S-504 MILLETT S-530 HILL

This resolve is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2011, chapter 166, section 8. As required by the resolve, the qualified research entity selected to conduct the independent review of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act submitted a final report to the committee that included findings, conclusions and recommendations regarding changes to the Essential Programs and Services School Funding Act.

The resolve establishes the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula. The commission is directed to examine the reports and related work products presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs during the 126th Legislature as part of the independent review of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to develop a plan to strengthen the adequacy and equity of the following cost components of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and related education statutes:

1. Public preschool programs for children four years of age;
2. Support for economically disadvantaged students, including Title I funds and extra help for struggling students;
3. Professional development and collaborative time needed to implement proficiency-based learning;
4. Regional cost adjustment for teacher salaries;
5. Debt service for locally approved school construction projects in the required local share of school funding;
6. Special education allocation for minimum subsidy receivers; and