

# 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**  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



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

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

November 2020

**STAFF:**

HILLARY RISLER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
KAREN S. NADEAU, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. REBECCA J. MILLETT, CHAIR  
SEN. EVERETT BROWNIE CARSON  
SEN. MATTHEW POULIOT

REP. VICTORIA P. KORNFIELD, CHAIR  
REP. MICHAEL F. BRENNAN  
REP. RICHARD R. FARNSWORTH  
REP. DAVID HAROLD MCCREA  
REP. JANICE S. DODGE  
REP. HENRY L. INGWERSEN  
REP. HEIDI H. SAMPSON  
REP. GARY A. DRINKWATER  
REP. JUSTIN FECTEAU  
REP. SHELLEY RUDNICKI

# STATE OF MAINE

129<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 129<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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

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 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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 136      Resolve, To Require the Department of Education To Study and Report  
on the Special Education Funding Component of the School Funding  
Formula**

**HELD BY  
GOVERNOR**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RUDNICKI S	OTP-AM	H-743

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill establishes the special education circuit breaker reimbursement program, in which the Department of Education reimburses school administrative units, for a student whose eligible special education costs exceed four times the statewide EPS per-pupil rate, 75% of the amount of the special education costs that are above four times the statewide EPS per-pupil rate. The bill requires the department to distribute reimbursements to eligible school administrative units on a quarterly basis, and the reimbursements must be deposited in a separate revolving account that may be spent only on approved special education services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-743)**

This amendment, which strikes and replaces the bill with a resolve, requires the Department of Education to study and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the department's continued work with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute on the special education funding component of the school funding formula, including but not limited to an examination of the special education budgetary hardship adjustment. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the First Regular Session or Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

**LD 178      An Act To Increase the State Share of the Cost of Health Insurance for  
Retired Teachers**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLLINGS B SANBORNH	OTP-AM ONTP	H-701

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

Current law requires the State to pay 45% of a retired teacher's share of the premium for group accident and sickness or health insurance. This bill raises that percentage to 50% from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020; 55% from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; 60% from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; 65% from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023; 70% from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; 75% from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025; 80% from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026; 85% from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027; and 90% after June 30, 2027. It also removes some outdated language and the cap on the increase in the State's total cost for retired teachers' health insurance premiums for fiscal years ending after June 30, 2015.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-701)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, requires the State to pay 55% of a retired teacher's share of the premium for group accident and sickness or health insurance after June 30, 2020.

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

**LD 246      An Act To Secure the Future of the Frances Perkins Homestead      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOW D GIDEONS	OTP-AM ONTP	S-15

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill provides one-time funds to the Frances Perkins Center to be applied toward the acquisition of the Frances Perkins homestead in Newcastle.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-15)**

This amendment, which is the majority report, directs the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to transfer \$250,000 in state fiscal year 2019-20 to be used for the acquisition of the Frances Perkins Homestead in Newcastle if certain requirements are met.

This bill was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

**LD 359      An Act To Address Student Hunger with a "Breakfast after the Bell" Program      PUBLIC 556 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MOORE M TUELL W	OTP-AM ONTP	S-373 BREEN C S-78

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table, from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill 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 an alternative breakfast delivery service that provides breakfast after the start of the school day for students at that public school. It also provides a process for a school administrative unit to opt out of the alternative breakfast delivery service. This bill requires the Department of Education to adopt rules to develop an application process and to adopt standards to address evaluation criteria based on need for funding assistance for alternative breakfast delivery services in school administrative units. It also requires the department to develop a means to track health and academic outcomes of students and schools that participate in alternative breakfast delivery services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-78)**

The bill 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 an alternative breakfast delivery service.

This amendment, which is the majority report, clarifies that the alternative breakfast delivery service provides breakfast after the start of the school day and before any lunch period in the school begins for students at that public