

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2019

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STATE OF MAINE

129TH LEGISLATURE
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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 129th 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 129th 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 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 SANBORN H		

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.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 185 An Act To Provide a Method for a Student To Be Excused from Standardized Testing Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAMPSON H DIAMOND B	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires a school administrative unit to excuse a student from a standardized assessment administered pursuant to the State's assessment program at the written request of the student's parent or guardian and establishes requirements for school administrative units and the Department of Education related to excusing a student.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-268)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and clarifies that a school administrative unit is required to excuse a student from standardized testing only if doing so would not make the school administrative unit out of compliance with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and requires the Department of Education to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs if the opt-out provision of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act is repealed or substantially amended by federal law.

This amendment also removes from the bill the requirement that school administrative units provide students excused from the assessment with an educational activity and the requirement that the Department of Education develop a form and that the department and school administrative units post the form on their publicly accessible websites and clarifies that educators may inform students and parents of the right to opt out.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 206 An Act To Raise the University of Maine System Debt Ceiling PUBLIC 487

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY M DILL J	OTP-AM ONTP	H-26

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This bill increases the borrowing authority for the University of Maine System from \$220,000,000 to \$350,000,000.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-26)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and it incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 487 increases the borrowing authority for the University of Maine System from \$220,000,000 to \$350,000,000.

LD 210 An Act To Increase Technology and Engineering Education for Grades 7 to 12 ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ORDWAY L DIAMOND B	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures to enhance technology and engineering education for students in grades seven to 12. The measures include, but are not limited to:

1. Changing the industrial arts/technology teacher endorsement to a technology and engineering endorsement and amending the endorsement requirements. The amended endorsement requirements would grandfather all current teachers who hold an industrial arts/technology endorsement and make them technology and engineering teachers. The amended endorsement requirements would also allow a college graduate with an engineering degree to obtain a technology and engineering endorsement; and
2. Creating three categories of science endorsements: life science, physical science and technology and engineering.

LD 1478, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, which was finally passed as Resolve 2019, chapter 101, authorizes final adoption of the Department of Education's will on teacher credentialing as long as the Department, among other things, changes the "industrial arts/technology teacher assessment to an "industrial arts/engineering and technology endorsement.

LD 225 An Act Regarding Transportation Management Software and School Bus Replacement Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERKINS M	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill establishes in statute the criteria for the replacement of conventional and transit-style school buses through the Department of Education and prohibits the department from requiring a school administrative unit to use a specific brand of routing and transportation management software.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-46)