

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**

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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

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, caps the total number of public charter schools in the state to 10 public charter schools, regardless of whether the public charter school is authorized by the commission or by local school boards or collaboratives of local school boards.

This amendment also directs the Maine Charter School Commission to develop a process for the revocation or nonrenewal of a public charter school's charter for public charter schools that are not meeting required performance framework provisions and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, no later than January 1, 2020, on the recommended process and submit any suggested legislation to implement the process to revoke or not renew a public charter school's charter.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-366)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Department of Education to develop a process for the revocation or nonrenewal of a public charter school's charter for public charter schools that are not meeting required performance framework provisions and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, no later than January 1, 2020, on the recommended process and submit any suggested legislation to implement the process to revoke or not renew a public charter school's charter.

This amendment was not adopted.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 307 permanently caps the total number of public charter schools in the state to 10 public charter schools, regardless of whether the public charter school is authorized by the commission or by local school boards or collaboratives of local school boards.

The law also directs the Maine Charter School Commission to develop a process for the revocation or nonrenewal of a public charter school's charter for public charter schools that are not meeting required performance framework provisions and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, no later than January 1, 2020, on the recommended process and submit any suggested legislation to implement the process to revoke or not renew a public charter school's charter.

LD 309 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Direct a Study of the Regional Adjustment for School Administrative Units

**RESOLVE 70
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEWART T	OTP-AM	H-393

This bill removes the regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for school administrative units under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-393)

This amendment changes the bill to a resolve and adds an emergency preamble. The amendment directs the Department of Education to direct the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, in the institute's review of the essential programs and services, to study and report to the department on the regional adjustment for school administrative units. The department must submit the report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2020.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 70, directs the Department of Education to direct the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, in the institute's review of the essential programs and services, to study and report to the department on the

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

regional adjustment for school administrative units. The department must submit the report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2020.

Resolve 2019, chapter 70 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 17, 2019.

LD 318 An Act To Prepare All Students for Work and Life by Requiring That Students Receive Instruction in Vocational Preparation and Practical Life Skills **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KESCHL D BLACK R	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill changes the requirement in the system of learning results from "career and education development" to "vocational preparation and practical life skills." The bill defines "vocational preparation and practical life skills" to mean experiential instruction of students, regardless of career choice or pathway, that develops their understanding of interests, aptitudes and options related to work and study; develops core workplace skills in areas such as planning, communication, problem solving, teamwork and computer applications; and includes practical workplace and home economics experiences that maximize learning through hands-on application.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-267)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill and changes the title. The amendment requires a secondary school to provide one semester of instruction in career and technical education or practical life skills, whenever possible, as determined by the local school board.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 345 An Act To Help New Teachers Succeed **PUBLIC 132**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREA D CARPENTER M	OTP-AM	H-153

This bill requires a probationary teacher to be evaluated during each year of employment as a probationary teacher and provides that if a third-year probationary teacher does not receive a summative effectiveness rating indicating ineffectiveness during the first or second year of the probationary teacher's contract, the probationary teacher's contract must be extended automatically. This bill also requires special procedures for probationary teachers in a school administrative unit's performance evaluation and professional growth system.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-153)

This amendment requires that, beginning with teachers hired for the 2020-2021 school year, the probationary period may not exceed two years. This amendment removes the sections of the bill that enacted special procedures for probationary teachers.

The amendment also restructures the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13201 to bring the section into conformity with current drafting standards. The only substantive changes to section 13201 are to require the superintendent to evaluate probationary teachers during, without limitation, each year of their employment as probationary teachers and that, beginning with teachers hired for the 2020-2021 school year, the probationary period may not exceed two years.