

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
129<sup>TH</sup> 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

129<sup>TH</sup> 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 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*

4. It adds the fund to the enhancing student performance and opportunity provisions of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act; and

5. It requires the Commissioner of Education to annually report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs on the number of school administrative units administering summer success pilot programs, the nature of the summer success pilot programs receiving money from the fund, the amount of money distributed and the number of children participating in a summer success pilot program. The report must also include a recommendation on whether the pilot program should continue as a pilot program, be modified or become a permanent program.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

**LD 503      An Act To Provide Additional Funding for the Maine Bicentennial Commission      Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T DIAMOND B		

This bill provides funding for the Maine Bicentennial Commission, which was enacted in Resolve 2017, chapter 25. The bill provides one-time funds to the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council in fiscal year 2019-20 for the expenses associated with the planning of the State of Maine bicentennial celebration.

**LD 504      An Act To Enhance the Development of Innovative Career and Technical Education Programs      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS N DAVIS P	ONTP	

This bill changes the procedure for authorizing career and technical education satellite programs. Current law requires any affiliated unit that wishes to operate a career and technical education satellite program to submit a written request to operate a satellite program to the governing body of the center or region with which the unit is affiliated. The governing body of the center or region considers the request and then forwards its recommendation to the Commissioner of Education. This bill provides that the written request be submitted directly to the Commissioner of Education for approval.

**LD 512      Resolve, To Authorize the Legislature To Contract for an Independent Review To Evaluate and Plan for the Implementation of Maine's Early Childhood Special Education Services      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARNSWORTH D MOORE M	OTP-AM	H-561

This resolve establishes the Task Force To Study and Plan for the Implementation of Maine's Early Childhood Special Education Services to examine the national trends and relevant models of governing and delivering early

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childhood special education systems and the short-term and long-term costs and benefits to the Department of Education's proposed plan to restructure the Child Development Services System and to make recommendations for an early childhood special education services program plan.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-561)**

This amendment authorizes the Legislature, through the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, to contract with a qualified research and technical assistance entity to conduct an independent review of Maine's early childhood special education services. This amendment authorizes the Office of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, at the direction of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, to develop and administer a request for proposals process to award a contract for the independent review. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

The provisions of this amendment were incorporated into LD 1001, which was enacted as Public Law 2019, chapter 423.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

**LD 513      An Act To Limit the Number of Students and Prevent the Addition of      PUBLIC 253  
Grade Levels at Virtual Public Charter Schools**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN M SANBORN L	OTP-AM OTP-AM ONTP	H-239

This bill limits total enrollment at all virtual public charter schools authorized by the commission to the total enrollment at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. It also prohibits a virtual public charter school authorized by the commission from expanding to serve a grade level not included in the school's initial charter contract or, for a school whose charter was renewed prior to November 1, 2019, the renewed charter contract.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-239)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, limits the total enrollment at all virtual public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission to 1,000 students.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-240)**

This amendment, which is one of two minority reports of the committee, limits the total enrollment at all virtual public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission to 1,200 students. The amendment also removes the provision in the bill that prohibited a virtual public charter school from expanding to serve a grade level not included in the school's initial charter or renewed charter contract.

This amendment was not adopted.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 253 limits total enrollment at all virtual public charter schools authorized by the commission to the total 1,000 students. The law also prohibits a virtual public charter school authorized by the commission from expanding to serve a grade level not included in the school's initial charter contract or, for a school whose charter was renewed prior to November 1, 2019, the renewed charter contract.