

# 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 REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2019

**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 712 An Act To Increase the School Construction Debt Service Limit**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN M CHIPMAN B	OTP-AM ONTP	H-290

This bill amends the school funding formula to fund after-school programs based on the state share percentage and to fund public preschool programs at 50% of the cost of the programs, or if a school administrative unit's state share percentage is greater than 50%, to fund the unit's public preschool program at the state share percentage. The bill also increases the additional weight for economically disadvantaged students from 0.15 to 1.5. The bill also raises the maximum debt service limit for school construction projects from \$126,000,000 to \$150,000,000 beginning in 2020.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-290)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, changes the title and strikes all sections of the bill except the provision that raises the maximum debt service limit for school construction projects from \$126,000,000 to \$150,000,000 beginning in 2020.

This bill was reported out of committee and 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 714 An Act To Prohibit Public Charter Schools from Expending Funds for Advertising**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HANDY J	ONTP	

This bill prohibits a public charter school from paying for advertising in print media or on television, radio, yard signs or digital or electronic media.

**LD 718 An Act To Increase Funding for Adult Basic Literacy, Workplace Education and College Preparedness**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TALBOT ROSS R DOW D	ONTP	

This bill provides an increase in funding for the adult education subsidy to local school units that operate adult education programs. It also provides targeted funds to improve the capacity of local adult education programs to meet students' academic and work readiness and training needs.

**LD 721 An Act To Encourage Public Participation in School Board Meetings**

**PUBLIC 293**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUDDY S	OTP-AM ONTP	H-394

## *Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

This bill requires school boards to hold public comment periods at the beginning of each school board meeting.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-394)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, removes the provision that a school board must provide the opportunity for the public to comment at the beginning of each school board meeting and instead requires that a school board provide the opportunity for the public to comment at a school board meeting. A school board meeting is defined as a full meeting of the school board that does not include meetings of subcommittees.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 293 requires that school boards provide the opportunity for the public to comment at a school board meetings, which are defined as a full meeting of the school board and does not include meetings of subcommittees.

### **LD 727      An Act Concerning Funding of Alternative Organizational Structures      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL W MOORE M	ONTP	

This bill requires alternative organizational structures, a type of school administrative unit, to be funded at the same level as school management and leadership centers.

### **LD 729      An Act Regarding the Probationary Period for Teachers      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DODGE J BELLOWS S	ONTP	

This bill provides that if a teacher completed a three-year probationary period in a school administrative unit and later teaches in another school administrative unit, that teacher will only have a one-year probationary period in the new school administrative unit.

LD 345, An Act to Help New Teachers Succeed, which was enacted as Public Law 2019, chapter 132, requires that, beginning with teachers hired for the 2020-2021 school year, the probationary period for all teachers may not exceed two years.

### **LD 736      An Act To Protect Students during Elections Held at Their Schools      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FECTEAU R	ONTP	

This bill requires that when an election is held with a school as a voting place, the school must either be closed or secured according to a plan approved by the municipal law enforcement agency responsible for protecting that school. See also LD 858.