

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

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-350)

This amendment increases the number of Senators appointed to serve on the task force from one Senator to two Senators, changes the method of appointing the task force chairs and changes the reporting date.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 858 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Study and Make Recommendations Relating to School Safety and Security

RESOLVE 26

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COREY P POULIOT M	OTP-AM	H-128

This resolve directs the Department of Education to study and make recommendations for the establishment of a Maine School Safety Center based on a report created by Safe Havens International, the top recommendation of which was the establishment of such a center. The department is directed to issue a report, including its recommendations for the establishment of a center and any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by October 15, 2019. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-128)

This amendment clarifies that the Department of Education is required to study and make recommendations relating to school safety and security, including, but not limited to, planning to mitigate the potential risks associated with opening school facilities to the public when a school is used as a polling place and the establishment of a Maine School Safety Center. The amendment requires the department to submit a preliminary report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 15, 2019 and a final report by December 15, 2020. The amendment authorizes the joint standing committee to submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature instead of the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature as proposed in the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 26 requires the Department of Education to study and make recommendations relating to school safety and security, including, but not limited to, planning to mitigate the potential risks associated with opening school facilities to the public when a school is used as a polling place and the establishment of a Maine School Safety Center. The law requires the department to submit a preliminary report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 15, 2019 and a final report by December 15, 2020. The law authorizes the joint standing committee to submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

LD 860 An Act To Establish the Maine Community College System No-cost Tuition Program

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN M LIBBY N		

This bill establishes the Maine Community College System No-cost Tuition Program. Under the program, Maine residents who are determined to be eligible students and who are enrolled in an eligible course of study at a college within the Maine Community College System are eligible for a grant to cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees, less any federal financial aid or other financial assistance that the student receives that is not required to be repaid. The Maine Community College System must include in its biennial budget for presentation to the Governor and the

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Legislature the estimated full funding for the Maine Community College System No-cost Tuition Program.

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

LD 866 An Act To Support College Completion by Homeless Youth in Maine

**HELD BY
GOVERNOR**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN M CARSON B	OTP-AM	H-321

This bill requires institutions of higher education in the State to designate an existing staff member to serve as a liaison for homeless youth who are enrolled in that institution of higher education. The bill also requires institutions of higher education to give homeless youth priority for on-campus housing, develop a plan to provide homeless youth housing during school breaks and allow homeless youth who are enrolled part-time to access on-campus housing during the homeless youth's first year of school. The bill also expands the tuition waiver for state postsecondary educational institutions to include tuition waivers for homeless youth.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-321)

This amendment, which strikes and replaces the bill, does the following.

1. It defines a homeless student as a student under 25 years of age who has been verified, at any time during the 24 months immediately preceding the student's admission to or while enrolled in a state postsecondary educational institution, as a homeless child or youth as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001.
2. It allows each state postsecondary educational institution to designate a staff member as the homeless student liaison.
3. It authorizes each state postsecondary educational institution to award a homeless student a financial assistance grant, which is limited to the amount of the cost of tuition less all other financial aid received that a student is not required to repay. The availability of the grant and the amount of the grant is also subject to the amounts appropriated by the Legislature.

LD 882 Resolve, To Require the Examination of the System of Learning Results

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAMPSON H LIBBY N		

This resolve directs the Department of Education to convene a working group to study the system of learning results and to submit a report by December 4, 2019 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

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