

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



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

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

November 2020

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# 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

program and fund. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section with an appropriation of \$3,600,000.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table, to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

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

**PUBLIC 538**

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

This bill was passed to be enacted by the Legislature and then held by the Governor at the end of the First Regular Session of the 129th legislature. It became law without signature at the beginning of the Second Regular Session.

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 requires 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.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 538 does the following:

1. It defines as a homeless student 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 requires each state postsecondary educational institution to designate a staff member as the homeless student liaison.

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

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      ONTP**

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

This resolve was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

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.

**LD 1036      Resolve, Establishing a Task Force To Study the Creation of a      RESOLVE 108  
Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System and Increased      EMERGENCY  
Crosswalks for Academic Credit between Secondary Schools and Career  
and Technical Education Programs**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS N HERBIG E	OTP-AM	H-506 S-311   LIBBY N

This resolve was passed to be enacted by the Legislature and then held by the Governor at the end of the first Regular Session of the 129th Legislature. It became law without the Governor's signature at the beginning of the Second Regular Session.

This resolve establishes the Task Force To Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System to examine the feasibility of establishing a comprehensive 4-year high school career and technical education program to provide a technical high school setting for middle school students to attend at the completion of the 8th grade.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-506)**

This amendment changes the title of this resolve and expands the membership of the task force to include a principal of a secondary school, a superintendent of a school administrative unit, an administrator at the University of Maine System and the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee and requires that the member from a community college be an administrator.

This amendment also expands the duties of the task force to require that the task force examine the advantages and disadvantages of a comprehensive four-year career and technical education high school, obstacles to implementation and other models of comprehensive four-year career and technical education high schools around the State and on a national level. The task force is also required to examine increasing crosswalks and intersections between technical and occupational knowledge and curricula and academic standards in order to promote multiple pathways for awarding content area credit to students enrolled in career and technical education programs.