

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

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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

LD 898 An Act To Provide for Support for New Educators

PUBLIC 518

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT R MCCREAD D	OTP-AM OTP-AM	S-59 S-332 BREEN C

This bill does the following.

1. It proposes to improve teacher quality in the State by amending the current statutes related to programs involving teacher preparation, support systems for conditionally certified teachers and educational specialists, teacher certification and teacher salaries and funding college loans for students enrolled in a program of study leading to certification as a teacher.
2. It expands the student teaching experience and academic achievement requirements for candidates for a professional teacher certificate. It specifies the number of hours of practicum an applicant must complete and clarifies the time frame during which the student teaching experience must occur. The bill enacts a grade point average requirement with respect to applicants recommended by educational institutions offering teacher preparation programs.
3. It strengthens the support and mentoring systems required to provide assistance for teachers, including teachers certified for less than five years, and requires the Commissioner of Education to pay salary supplements to teachers who are involved in the operation of such systems. The bill provides that a school administrative unit may not employ a conditionally certified teacher or educational specialist unless it has an approved, locally designed support and mentoring system or has received specific authorization from the commissioner.
4. It increases the minimum salary for certified teachers to \$40,000 beginning with the 2020-2021 school year and provides that a certified teacher's salary may not remain at the minimum level for longer than two years. The bill includes in the school funding formula state funding for the incremental costs of meeting this minimum in fiscal year 2020-21, state funding for 66% of these incremental costs in fiscal year 2021-22 and state funding for 33% of these incremental costs in fiscal year 2022-23.
5. It requires the State Board of Education to amend its rule Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel to articulate and outline clear standards for a memorandum of understanding between student teachers, teacher preparation programs and participating school administrative units.
6. It directs the Governor to appoint members to vacant positions on the Professional Standards Board by November 1, 2019 and directs the board to convene a meeting by December 1, 2019.
7. It provides additional appropriations for the Educators for Maine Program within the Finance Authority of Maine in order to double the annual investment of state loan funds awarded to eligible students.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-59)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, removes the requirement that a support and mentoring system must be approved by the Commissioner of Education and it clarifies that the support and mentoring system is a peer support and mentoring system and that it must include opportunities for educators to share, learn and improve their practice in collaboration with peers, be formative in nature and be for the sole

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

purpose of ongoing professional growth for educators.

This amendment also removes the provisions of the bill on teacher preparation programs and salary supplements for approved support and mentoring systems for teacher certification and the appropriations for the Educators for Maine Program under the Finance Authority of Maine.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-60)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee and replaces the bill, provides for statewide collective bargaining for teachers beginning January 1, 2021. The amendment directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to develop a plan to implement statewide collective bargaining for teachers and requires that the plan be designed to permit school administrative units to maintain local control and direction of teacher employment; to include for all public school teachers a uniform compensation system that is competitive and fair throughout the State; and to maximize opportunities for certain economies of scale through the statewide negotiation of teachers' benefits, including, but not limited to, health insurance. The department is directed to submit its plan, together with proposed implementing legislation, for introduction to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

This amendment was not adopted.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-332)

This amendment removes the sections of the bill relating to establishing a minimum salary of \$40,000 for certified teachers starting after June 30, 2020.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 518 provides that a school administrative unit may not employ a conditionally certified teacher or educational specialist unless it has a locally designed support and mentoring system and provides that for at least the first two years of employment of a conditionally certified teacher, ensure that the conditionally certified teacher or education specialist receives high-quality professional development and provide a program of intensive supervision for the conditionally certified teacher.

Public Law 2019, chapter 518 also provides that the purpose of the peer support and mentoring system is to provide strong support services and mentoring programs that are sustained, intensive and classroom-focused in order to have positive and lasting effect on classroom instruction and develop good teaching and classroom management, provide assistance to and review for all individuals who are candidates for a higher level certificate, and assist all teachers in becoming better teachers. It also provides that the peer mentoring and support system must include opportunities for all educators to share, learn, and continually improve practices as educators in collaboration with peers and must be formative in nature and be for the sole purpose of ongoing professional growth for educators.

Public Law 2019, chapter 518 also requires the Governor to appoint members for all vacant positions on the Professional Standards Board no later than November 1, 2019, and that the Professional Standards Board must convene a meeting no later than December 1, 2019.

L.D. 1001, enacted as Public Law 2019, chapter 343, includes provisions for increasing the minimum teacher salary to \$40,000 by the school year starting after June 30, 2022.

LD 930 An Act To Give Maine Schools Additional Options To Make Up Missed School Days

PUBLIC 105

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T BREEN C	OTP-AM	H-127