

# 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**

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**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/>

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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*

This bill directs the Department of Education to amend its rule Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty to include concepts from and references to the department's rule Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion.

This bill also directs schools to make annual reports to the department regarding incidents of physical restraint and seclusion and directs the Commissioner of Education to report biennially to the Governor and the Legislature on data regarding the use of physical restraint and seclusion.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-617)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill. It directs schools to submit annual reports to the Department of Education regarding incidents of physical restraint and seclusion including the number of uses and number of students, broken down by grade level or age group, gender, race and type of education plan, and the number of injuries to students and to staff and directs the Commissioner of Education to report biennially to the Governor and the Legislature on data regarding the use of physical restraint and seclusion. It also directs the Department of Education to, by rule, develop and implement a performance review system to define and monitor all schools' use of physical restraint and seclusion.

The amendment also requires the Department of Education to submit major substantive rules by December 5, 2019, provide guidance to schools regarding these rules and submit a plan by January 15, 2020 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on professional development opportunities to promote preventive practice models that will reduce dependence on physical restraint and seclusion.

It also adds an appropriations and allocations section and incorporates a fiscal note. The fiscal note identifies the requirement that school administrative units break down the aggregate data by grade level or age group, gender, race and type of plan as a potential unfunded state mandate. Because schools are already required to collect this data pursuant to department rule Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, the committee finds this additional requirement does not require an expansion or modification of activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures.

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 1382      Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Study and Develop a State Plan for Computer Science Instruction and Professional Development      RESOLVE 78**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T	OTP-AM	H-522
POULIOT M	OTP-AM	

This bill provides the necessary resources and support for kindergarten to grade 12 schools to adopt computer science into their courses and curriculums. The bill establishes a grant program for computer science professional development, including costs of transportation, mentoring and coaching. The bill also requires the Department of Education to develop a statewide plan as well as computer science standards for kindergarten to grade 12 schools. The bill creates a full-time Regional Education Representative position in the Department of Education to support the creation and implementation of the plan and the standards. The bill establishes a grant program for computer devices and instructional materials to provide the tools necessary for schools to implement computer science courses and content. The bill also establishes a computer science teacher certification program for students who are majoring in education in the University of Maine System. Finally, the bill authorizes the Department of Education to adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

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

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-522)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the Department of Education to study and develop a plan for implementing computer science instruction in schools and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs that includes an overview of how computer science courses and curricula are being implemented in schools in the State; a state plan for instruction in computer science in public preschool to grade 12, including the development of standards and clarification on how instruction in computer science may be applied toward graduation requirements, that provides equitable access to computer science instruction across the State and provides for instruction in computer science in all high schools by 2022 and in all grades by 2025; a professional development plan for educators that includes training in computer science and a component that includes peer-to-peer training in computer science; and an estimate of the funding levels necessary to implement the plans set out in the report. The amendment provides that the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

### **Committee Amendment "B" (H-523)**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the Department of Education to develop a state plan for instruction in computer science in public preschool to grade 12 that provides equitable access to computer science instruction in schools across the State and offers the opportunity for instruction in computer science in all high schools by 2022 and in all grades by 2025. The department is required to provide guidelines for school administrative units on how computer science instruction may be applied toward graduation requirements in mathematics and science on the department's publicly accessible website.

This amendment was not adopted.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2019, chapter 78 directs the Department of Education to study and develop a plan for implementing computer science instruction in schools and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs that includes an overview of how computer science courses and curricula are being implemented in schools in the State; a state plan for instruction in computer science in public preschool to grade 12, including the development of standards and clarification on how instruction in computer science may be applied toward graduation requirements, that provides equitable access to computer science instruction across the State and provides for instruction in computer science in all high schools by 2022 and in all grades by 2025; a professional development plan for educators that includes training in computer science and a component that includes peer-to-peer training in computer science; and an estimate of the funding levels necessary to implement the plans set out in the report. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

**LD 1396      An Act To Update the Laws Governing the Regional Library Systems**

**PUBLIC 150**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NADEAU C BELLOWS S	OTP-AM	H-182

This bill makes administrative updates to the laws governing regional library systems. It promotes cooperation between library systems by replacing library districts with library regions, consolidating the district councils by establishing the Maine Library Advisory Council to serve as an advisory body to the library regions and directing staff of the Maine State Library holding the position of consultant or specialist to provide services to library regions