

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**

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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

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

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

as appointed by the State Librarian. The bill also revises the membership and terms of the Maine Library Commission.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-182)

This amendment revises the membership of the Maine Library Commission.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 150 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 as appointed by the State Librarian. The law also revises the membership and terms of the Maine Library Commission.

LD 1425 An Act To Maintain the Integrity of the Department of Education by Prohibiting Its Promotion of Policies and Practices That Are Not Based on Rigorous Peer Review and Analysis, Limiting Acceptance of Private Funding in Implementing and Influencing State Policy and Retaining the Home Rule Powers to School Administrative Units **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAMPSON H DOW D	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill prohibits the Commissioner of Education and Department of Education personnel from promoting policies, programs, procedures or experiments in schools that do not adhere to rigorous standards of peer review and established statistical procedures for determining the effectiveness in producing clearly identified outcomes and from contracting with and accepting funding from private entities to implement state policies. This bill also directs the commissioner to withdraw from the New England Secondary School Consortium and prohibits the commissioner from maintaining membership in regional or national groups that are funded by private entities. The bill also directs the Department of Education, in consultation with school administrative units and the Maine Municipal Association, to study how to return home rule powers to school administrative units.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-398)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the section of the bill that prohibits the Commissioner of Education from promoting certain policies, contracting with or accepting funding from private entities or maintaining a membership in certain organizations to require instead that the Department of Education limit all new initiatives relating to students to initiatives that have undergone rigorous statistical analysis on their effects in producing clearly identified student outcomes and make the results of that statistical analysis available on the department's publicly accessible website. The amendment also requires the department to critically review contracts with outside entities and publish competitive and noncompetitive contracts with outside entities on the department's publicly accessible website.

This amendment was not adopted.