

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

Resolve 2019, chapter 101 requires the Department of Education to submit annual reports to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by March 1st of the next three years on the progress toward the implementation of that transition from kindergarten to grade eight to kindergarten to grade six.

LD 1497 An Act To Recognize High-performing, Efficient School Districts with ONTP
Regard to the System Administration Allocation

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROBERTS-LOVELL LAWRENCE M	ONTP	

Under current law, for the 2019-20 fiscal year, a system administration allocation of \$141 per pupil is established, with \$47 being allocated to each school administrative unit and an additional \$94 being allocated as a targeted amount to school administrative units that have established regionalized administrative services.

This bill maintains the \$141 allocation for fiscal year 2019-20, but provides \$94 to each school administrative unit and an additional \$47 to school administrative units that have established regionalized administrative services and to those school administrative units that have been identified as high-performing, efficient school administrative units.

LD 1508 An Act To Respect the Will of Maine Voters by Funding Education at 55 Died On
Percent Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SYLVESTER M		

This bill restores provisions of Initiated Bill 2015, chapter 4. It establishes the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education for the purpose of improving the ability of the State to reach the annual target of 55%, as specified in statute, for the state share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and for increasing direct support for student learning, but not for administrative costs. Revenue for the fund is generated by a 3% surcharge on Maine income tax over \$200,000, beginning with tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020. This bill was not referred to committee.

LD 1521 An Act To Expand Skill Development Opportunities for Maine Youth CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KEIM L KORNFELD V		

This bill directs the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Labor, to develop an internship program for students who are 23 years of age or younger. The internship program developed by the department would authorize participants to receive compensation options, in combination with a variable hourly wage that is equal to or greater than the federal minimum wage, that may include academic credits, credentials of value and stackable credentials. The Department of Education is directed to submit a report outlining the internship program developed, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 4, 2019.

In addition, to facilitate participation in the Maine Apprenticeship Program established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 3202, this bill directs the Department of Labor to calculate the amount of funding and the

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

number of positions it would require in order to establish an apprenticeship coordinator at each career and technical education center in the State and report this information to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 4, 2019.

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

LD 1538 Resolve, Directing the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee To Study Compensation Equity among Public Higher Education Institutions RESOLVE 52

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAUGHTRY M	OTP-AM	H-324

This bill requires that the rate of compensation for comparable positions in the Maine Community College System for employees of comparable qualifications, including positions in the occupational groups of faculty and instructors, administrative staff, supervisory, support services, institutional services and police, be the same at every community college in the system. The bill directs the bargaining units of the occupational groups of the system to collectively bargain with the system, its agent or its representative to amend the agreed terms and conditions of employment for employees within the occupational groups to implement the provisions of this bill by January 1, 2020.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-324)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill with a resolve to direct the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee to study the use of adjunct professors across the State, and examine the equity of pay rates and pay scales across the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and each campus of those systems. The study must include an examination of market forces on pay rates and pay scales, how each system's pay rates and pay scales compare nationally and what changes would be necessary to implement a so-called living wage. The Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee is directed to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 2, 2020 on the results of the study, including, but not limited to, the issues raised, best practices for compensation equity, recommendations and any suggested legislation. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature related to the report.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 52 directs the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee to study the use of adjunct professors across the State, and examine the equity of pay rates and pay scales across the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and each campus of those systems. The study must include an examination of market forces on pay rates and pay scales, how each system's pay rates and pay scales compare nationally and what changes would be necessary to implement a so-called living wage. The Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 2, 2020 on the results of the study, including, but not limited to, the issues raised, best practices for compensation equity, recommendations and any suggested legislation. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature related to the report.