

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

LD 1549 An Act To Increase the Supplement for Certain National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certified Teachers in Maine

PUBLIC 394

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY N	OTP-AM ONTP	S-216

This bill increases, from \$3,000 to \$9,000, the supplement paid to a teacher who has attained certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is employed in a school in which at least 50% of students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch during the year that the supplement is provided.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-216)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, increases from \$3,000 in the current law to \$5,000 the supplement paid to a teacher who has attained certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is employed in a school in which at least 50% of students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch during the year that the supplement is provided.

The amendment also directs the Department of Education to calculate the full funding for the national board certification salary supplement and the National Board Certification Scholarship Fund and report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 1, 2020. The committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 394 increases, from \$3,000 to \$5,000, the supplement paid to a teacher who has attained certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is employed in a school in which at least 50% of students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch during the year that the supplement is provided.

LD 1566 Resolve, To Determine Ways To Increase the Number of Recipients under the Tuition Waiver Program for Participants in Foster Care

RESOLVE 56

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLACK R STANLEY S	OTP-AM ONTP	S-138

This bill increases from 30 to 60 the number of tuition waivers for postsecondary education allowed to be granted each academic year to persons who, at the time of their graduation from high school or their successful completion of a general educational development examination, were in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services and resided in foster care or subsidized adoptive care or were minor wards of a subsidized permanency guardian. This bill also removes the requirements that the tuition waivers be apportioned to postsecondary institutions based upon the order in which the waivers are made available.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-138)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee to review the tuition waiver program for participants in foster care and to identify barriers to the program for dependent students who have been adopted and independent students who have not been adopted. The committee must report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2020 with 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

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 56 directs the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee to review the tuition waiver program for participants in foster care and to identify barriers to the program for dependent students who have been adopted and independent students who have not been adopted. The committee must report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2020 with 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.

LD 1592 An Act To Allow the Dissolution of Regional School Units Composed of a Single Municipality

PUBLIC 302

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRAMLICH L FARRIN B	OTP-AM	H-474

This bill provides the steps necessary for a regional school unit composed of only one municipality to dissolve, including petitioning to dissolve the regional school unit, holding elections in the municipality, the provision of educational services for students and the disposition of outstanding indebtedness if the vote is to dissolve the regional school unit.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-474)

This amendment clarifies the process for a municipality to withdraw from a regional school unit that is composed of a single municipality and provides that upon withdrawal of a municipality from a regional school unit that is composed of a single municipality, the regional school unit is dissolved.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 302 clarifies the process for a municipality to withdraw from a regional school unit that is composed of a single municipality and provides that upon withdrawal of a municipality from a regional school unit that is composed of a single municipality, the regional school unit is dissolved.

LD 1593 An Act To Support Infrastructure Improvements in Schools

PUBLIC 385

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN M	OTP-AM	H-399

This bill makes changes to the laws governing energy conservation improvements at school administrative unit facilities, including amending the definition of "energy services company" and removing the requirement that an agreement with an energy services company must have a total contract cost of less than \$2,500,000 in order for the agreement to be deemed a professional service and not subject to competitive bidding requirements.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-399)

This amendment amends the definition of "energy services company" to mean a company or third-party financing company that provides design, installation, operation, maintenance and financing of locally funded energy conservation improvements, air quality improvements or combined energy conservation and related air quality improvements at existing school administrative unit facilities. This amendment also increases the cap on the total contract cost, excluding private or federal grant funds, interest and operating and maintenance costs, for which an agreement is deemed to be a professional service, which is not subject to competitive bidding requirements, to