

# 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 INNOVATION,  
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT  
AND BUSINESS**

August 2019

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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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and  
Business**

**LD 1530      An Act To Expand Incentives To Live and Work in Maine through a Tax Credit for Certain Student Loans      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BABBIDGE C CLAXTON N	ONTP	

This bill provides an income tax credit of up to \$1,000 for individuals for certain student loan payments made during the tax year if the individuals were first employed in Maine on or after January 1, 2020. The credit is equal to the lesser of 50% of the loan payments actually made and 50% of income tax liability in the first year in which the credit is claimed declining to 10% of income tax liability in the fifth and final year in which the credit is claimed. The credit may not exceed 50% of the individual's outstanding student loan debt and may not be claimed if the individual claims the credit for educational opportunity.

**LD 1584      An Act To Attract, Build and Retain an Early Childhood Education Workforce through Increased Training, Education and Career Pathways      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FECTEAU R POULIOT M	OTP-AM ONTP	H-464

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Labor jointly to develop and implement an early childhood educators workforce support program to recruit and retain early childhood educators working with children up to five years of age. Components of the program include:

1. Increasing opportunities for course work in early education by:
  - A. Expanding the number of career and technical education centers at which early childhood education programs are available;
  - B. Supporting early childhood education courses with funding and course material purchases; and
  - C. Creating articulation agreements with the Maine Community College System for credit transfers for work related to early childhood education and enrollment in courses in furtherance of the issuance of a postsecondary degree;
2. Offering comprehensive scholarships that allow individuals providing child care services who agree to work for at least one year following graduation with an approved employer to attain early childhood education credentials and take classes leading to associate or bachelor's degrees.
3. Expanding the number of Department of Labor registered apprenticeships available in early childhood child care; and
4. Establishing a system of salary supplements, based on education level, experience and other factors, for providers of child care and early childhood educators working with children up to five years of age.

This bill also provides funding to carry out the program.

***Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business***

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-464)**

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. This amendment does the following.

1. It adds a requirement for the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to collect and review early childhood educator workforce data and, on a biennial basis, conduct a review of the adequacy of the pathways to early childhood education careers.
2. It clarifies the definition of institution of higher education as referenced in the section of the bill requiring development of apprenticeship programs.
3. It requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Labor to collaborate with local adult education providers of school administrative units, apprenticeship sponsors, career and technical education programs, the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System to create articulation agreements between these entities for the transfer of credits for course work related to early childhood education and to facilitate enrollment in courses that lead to the issuance of a postsecondary degree by a degree-granting institution.
4. It requires the commissioners to collaborate with these same entities to provide support for individuals, including immigrants and other populations lacking experience in Maine's workforce, who require foundational skills development to enter and succeed in early childhood education courses, including but not limited to English as a second language, literacy, numeracy and employability skills.

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.

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 1601     An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Educators for Maine Program**

**PUBLIC 303**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T MILLETT R	OTP-AM	H-417

This bill amends the laws governing the Educators for Maine Program by:

1. Expanding the definition of graduating high school senior to include students who complete home instruction programs;
2. Expanding the definition of return service to include service at a publicly supported secondary school and special education facility;
3. Adding service in an underserved geographic areas as an eligibility criterion, and adding a definition of underserved geographic areas;
4. Removing the maximum loan amounts of \$2,000 per year and \$8,000 in total in favor of a minimum annual award of \$3,000 per year for undergraduate study and \$2,000 per year for post-baccalaureate certification.
5. Establishing a maximum award period of eight semesters for undergraduate and four semesters for

**Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and  
Business**

post-baccalaureate students.

6. Removing the provision whereby the Governor announces selected recipients annually;
7. Removing the preference for loans to undergraduate students enrolled in a course of study related to underserved subject areas; and

Increasing from 5 to 10 years the amount of time a recipient has to complete the return service requirement.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-417)**

This amendment removes the word "completes" as it references home instruction programs.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 303 amends the laws governing the Educators for Maine Program by:

1. Expanding the definition of graduating high school senior to include students who graduate from a home instruction program;
2. Expanding the definition of return service to include service at a publicly supported secondary school and special education facility;
3. Adding service in an underserved geographic areas as an eligibility criterion, and adding a definition of underserved geographic areas;
4. Removing the maximum loan amounts of \$2,000 per year and \$8,000 in total in favor of a minimum annual award of \$3,000 per year for undergraduate study and \$2,000 per year for post-baccalaureate certification;
5. Establishing a maximum award period of eight semesters for undergraduate and four semesters for post-baccalaureate students;
6. Removing the provision whereby the Governor announces selected recipients annually;
7. Removing the preference for loans to undergraduate students enrolled in a course of study related to underserved subject areas; and
8. Increasing from five to ten years the amount of time a recipient has to complete the return service requirement.

**LD 1629     An Act Regarding Future Evaluations of the Pine Tree Development  
Zone Program**

**PUBLIC 305**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

OTP

This bill strikes a provision regarding the Pine Tree Development Zone program that establishes the specific date of January 15, 2021 by which the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability must complete a review of the program. This provision is unnecessary as current law already provides that the Government Oversight Committee establish a schedule for the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to conduct reviews of tax expenditure programs based on priority and the grouping of programs with similar goals.

**Enacted Law Summary**