

# 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**

August 2019

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# STATE OF MAINE

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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

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

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

\$10,000,000.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 385 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. Public Law 2019, chapter 385 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 \$10,000,000 for each school building or project.

**LD 1606      An Act To Increase Funding for Career and Technical Education Programs      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILL J STANLEY S		

This bill provides an additional \$1,500,000 per year for the cost of career and technical education pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 1. It also removes the so-called hold harmless provision that limits the amount of any decrease or increase in the total allocation for a career and technical education center or career and technical education region, effective January 1, 2020.

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

**LD 1607      An Act To Create the Department of Early Care and Learning      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT R KORNFIELD V		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to create the Department of Early Care and Learning as a cabinet-level state agency within the executive branch of State Government. The department would assume primary responsibility for matters regarding children under six years of age in the State, including the care, health care and education of the children that are now the responsibility of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education.

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

**LD 1618      An Act To Authorize Career and Technical Education Regions To Enter into Energy Conservation Performance Contracts for School Facilities      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARSON B GIDEON S	ONTP	

This bill adds the authority to enter into an agreement for energy conservation improvements with an energy