

# 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**

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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 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

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services company to the powers and duties of a cooperative board of a career and technical education region, similar to the authority of a school administrative unit.

**LD 1638 An Act To Provide for Gubernatorial Appointments to the Maine Charter School Commission**

**PUBLIC 406**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHENETTE J	OTP-AM ONTP	S-171

This bill changes the appointing authority for four members of the Maine Charter School Commission from the State Board of Education to the Governor and increases the terms of those members from three years to four years.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-171)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, clarifies that the Governor's appointments to the Maine Charter School Commission are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and to confirmation by the Senate. This amendment also removes the provision of the bill that ends the terms on the effective date of this legislation of members of the commission who are not members of the State Board of Education and instead provides that a member of the commission serving on the effective date of this legislation may continue to serve until that member's term has expired.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 406 changes the appointing authority for four members of the Maine Charter School Commission from the State Board of Education to the Governor and subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and to confirmation by the Senate, and increases the terms of those members from three years to four years.

**LD 1641 Resolve, To Examine Issues Relating to the School Transportation Workforce**

**RESOLVE 59**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HERBIG E CUDDY S	OTP-AM	S-172

This bill allows public school bus drivers to collect unemployment benefits over the summer. It also creates a nonlapsing fund to award grants to school administrative units for training for school bus drivers between academic years.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-172)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Labor, to comprehensively examine issues associated with the school transportation workforce, including, but not limited to, determining the best strategies for hiring, training and retaining school transportation personnel. The department is required to submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. Each committee is authorized to report out a bill on the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2019, chapter 59 directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Labor, to comprehensively examine issues associated with the school transportation workforce, including, but not limited to,