

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

**STAFF:**

HILLARY RISLER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
KAREN S. NADEAU, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. REBECCA J. MILLETT, CHAIR  
SEN. EVERETT BROWNIE CARSON  
SEN. MATTHEW POULIOT

REP. VICTORIA P. KORNFIELD, CHAIR  
REP. MICHAEL F. BRENNAN  
REP. RICHARD R. FARNSWORTH  
REP. DAVID HAROLD MCCREA  
REP. JANICE S. DODGE  
REP. HENRY L. INGWERSEN  
REP. HEIDI H. SAMPSON  
REP. GARY A. DRINKWATER  
REP. JUSTIN FECTEAU  
REP. SHELLEY RUDNICKI

# STATE OF MAINE

129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## 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

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,

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

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.

**LD 1700      Resolve, Regarding African-American Student Data Analyses**

**HELD BY  
GOVERNOR**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TALBOT ROSS R	OTP-AM	H-563

This resolve directs the Department of Education, with assistance from the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, the Maine Human Rights Commission and the Department of the Attorney General, Civil Rights Team Project, as well as a volunteer advisory group that includes representatives from African-American civil rights organizations in the State, African-American history and cultural organizations and the African American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, to collect information and prepare and make available materials that promote the rationale for adding African-American history and culture, including Maine African-American history and culture, to the curricular offerings of school administrative units.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-563)**

This amendment removes the requirement that the Department of Education collect information and prepare and make available materials that promote the rationale for adding African-American history and culture to the curricular offerings of school administrative units. The amendment also removes the requirement that the department identify educators in the State who are implementing model approaches to teaching African-American history and culture.

**LD 1715      An Act To Reorganize the Provision of Services for Children with Disabilities from Birth to 5 Years of Age**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREIGHT J CARSON B		

Beginning in fiscal year 2019-20 for early adopters and over a five-year implementation phase-in beginning in fiscal year 2020-21 for other school administrative units, this bill moves responsibility for providing special education and related services for children who are at least three years of age and under six years of age from the Department of Education, Child Development Services System, the state intermediate educational unit, to the school administrative units of residence of the children.

This bill eliminates the Child Development Services System and moves the entire responsibility for providing services to children from birth to under three years of age to the Department of Education's office of special services. The funding plan continues the present arrangement of full responsibility for costs being shared among state funds, federal funds, the MaineCare program and private insurers.

Under this bill, the State continues its current practice of funding all services for preschool children with disabilities that are not paid for with federal funds, MaineCare funds or private funds.

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