

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

1. It amends a provision of law relating to a central information system on resources for people with disabilities to instead require the Department of Education to develop and maintain a comprehensive database of resources for people with disabilities on the department's publicly accessible website.
2. It repeals a provision of law relating to hazardous chemicals in schools.
3. It repeals provisions of law relating to school construction projects approved by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1977.
4. It replaces the term "limited English proficiency student" with the term "English learner."
5. It authorizes a school board to provide school nurse services through an agreement with an individual registered professional nurse.
6. It removes the limitation on the total cost of the components of essential programs and services.
7. Clarifies that the amount of the adjustment for economically disadvantaged students is the amount computed as the school administrative unit's total allocation for economically disadvantaged students.
8. It removes a requirement that school construction project plans and specifications must be approved by certain state entities.
9. It removes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services from the requirement to perform certain activities relating to school construction projects.
10. It includes psychometrically valid English language proficiency screening for potential English learners in the screening that local units may develop.
11. It removes a reference to Maine Merchant Marine Day in the powers and duties of the State Board of Education.
12. It amends the powers and duties of a cooperative board for a career and technical education region.
13. It amends the laws governing tuition students who reside in the Unorganized Territory by allowing elementary students to attend as a tuition student any public or private elementary school approved for tuition purposes and a secondary school student to attend as a tuition student any public or private secondary school to which that student may gain entrance that is approved for tuition purposes and removes a gendered pronoun in this section.
14. It adds a definition of "rural school administrative unit" for purposes of allocating federal funds under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.
15. It increases from 90 days to 150 days the period of time in which a charter school authorizer must submit an annual report.

LD 1813 **Resolve, To Ensure Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments**

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
DAUGHTRY M

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Education to convene a working group to review and develop recommendations to ensure safe and inclusive learning environments for LGBTQ students and educators in Maine schools. The commissioner is required to submit the working group's report to the Legislature by December 1, 2019. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature based on the recommendations. For purposes of this resolve, "LGBTQ" includes but is not limited to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual.

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

**LD 1815 An Act To Provide Funds to the University of Maine System to Continue
the Statewide Online Advanced Placement Course Program**

**PUBLIC 500
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT M	OTP-AM	S-283

This bill provides ongoing funds to continue the statewide online advanced placement course program in partnership with the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-283)

This amendment transfers the administration of the statewide online advanced placement course program from the Department of Education in partnership with the University of Maine at Fort Kent to solely the University of Maine System. Accordingly, the amendment provides ongoing funds to continue the statewide online advanced placement program to the University of Maine System, instead of the Department of Education, and directs the University of Maine System to contract with the national governing body of the advanced placement course program, the College Board, to continue the program for the 2019-2020 school year. The amendment also requires the University of Maine System to submit annual reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the status of the statewide online advanced placement course program. It also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause and adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 500 transfers the administration of the statewide online advanced placement course program from the Department of Education in partnership with the University of Maine at Fort Kent to solely the University of Maine System. Accordingly, the law provides ongoing funds to continue the statewide online advanced placement program to the University of Maine System, instead of the Department of Education, and directs the University of Maine System to contract with the national governing body of the advanced placement course program, the College Board, to continue the program for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, the University of Maine System must submit annual reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the status of the statewide online advanced placement course program.

Public Law 2019, chapter 500 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 28, 2019.

**LD 1820 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Investigations by School Entities
into Holders of Credentials**

PUBLIC 403

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KORNFIELD V	OTP-AM ONTP	H-591