

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



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  
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*

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 531 delays the termination date of the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering, also known as the Ocean School, to 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Public Law 2019, chapter 531 was enacted as an emergency measure effective August 30, 2019.

**LD 1855 An Act To Include Student Absences for Mental Health or Behavioral Health Needs as Excusable Absences**

**PUBLIC 562**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREIGHT J CLAXTON N	OTP-AM ONTP	H-671

Current law provides that a person's absence from school is excused when the absence is due to personal illness. This bill specifies that a person's absence is excused when the absence is due to reasons of personal health, including the person's mental and behavioral health.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-671)**

This amendment specifies that a person's absence from school is excused when the absence is due to reasons of physical health, as well as the person's mental and behavioral health.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 562 specifies that a person's absence from school is excused when the absence is due to reasons of physical health, as well as the person's mental and behavioral health.

**LD 1857 An Act To Protect Teachers from Punitive or Retaliatory Transfers**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREAD MILLETTR	ONTP	

This bill prohibits the transfer of a teacher to another location or teaching assignment for a punitive or retaliatory reason without the teacher's consent. It authorizes a teacher who has been involuntarily transferred to request a hearing with the school board and requires the school board to reverse the transfer if the teacher demonstrates that the transfer was for a punitive or retaliatory reason.

**LD 1858 An Act To Protect Teachers from Professional Teacher Certificate Endorsement Changes**

**PUBLIC 584**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREAD MILLETTR	OTP-AM	H-676

This bill provides that a rule adopted by the State Board of Education that amends specifications for grades or subject areas endorsements for a professional teacher certificate does not apply to the endorsements on a professional teacher certificate held by a person if the endorsements were issued prior to or during the school year