

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH 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

129TH 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 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

This bill does the following.

1. It amends the process for applying for a Department of Education diploma by requiring that the responsible school apply on behalf of a student who has experienced one or more education disruptions on request. The student's parent or guardian or a student who is over 18 years of age may still apply directly to the Department of Education, and the school must assist the student in the application process.
2. It provides that the Commissioner of Education must award a Department of Education diploma to a student who has experienced homelessness or has been in foster care who meets certain criteria and may not require that student to provide additional information or be interviewed.
3. It provides that a secondary school must award a diploma to a student who has experienced homelessness or foster care placement if the student meets specified criteria.
4. It provides that the responsible school for a student whose education disruption is due to multiple transfers or homelessness or foster care placement must compile for the student partial and full credits received by the student to date, provide priority enrollment in classes in which the student has received partial credit and immediately enroll the student in classes or programs to close gaps between the compilation of credits by the student and the credits typically earned by the student's peers.
5. It requires the responsible school to provide an adult mentor to students who experience education disruption due to homelessness or foster care placement to facilitate transition into the school.
6. It requires that if the responsible school determines that a student who experiences education disruption will not be able to graduate by the end of the student's fourth year of secondary school, the responsible school must provide the student information regarding a Department of Education diploma and apply on behalf of the student or assist the student in making the application.

This bill, which has been voted but not yet reported out of committee, was carried over to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1918 An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding the Reserve Funds of Certain School Organizational Structures

PUBLIC 588

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLOUTIER K LIBBY N	OTP-AM	H-681

This bill allows boards of school administrative districts, regional school units, community school districts and career and technical education regions to expend reserve funds by a vote of the board for emergencies necessitating immediate expenditures when obtaining voter permission would be cost-prohibitive or when the expenditures are required by law.

It also changes what a reserve fund may be established for, from funding school construction projects, financing the acquisition or reconstruction of a specific type of capital improvement or financing the acquisition of a specific item or type of capital equipment, to providing funds for any direct instruction or instructional support purpose.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-681)

This amendment adds to what a reserve fund may be established for to include providing funds for expenditures such as regular instruction, special education, career and technical education, other instruction including summer

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school and extracurricular instruction, student and staff support, system administration, school administration, transportation and buses, facilities maintenance, debt service and other commitments and other expenditures, including school lunch.

The amendment also adds that, in order to expend funds by a vote of the boards or committees of school administrative districts, regional school units, community school districts and career and technical education regions, the respective boards and committees must provide public notice of the meeting at which the vote to expend funds from the reserve fund will be taken and hold a public hearing prior to the vote to expend funds from the reserve fund.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 588 allows boards of school administrative districts, regional school units, community school districts and career and technical education regions to expend reserve funds by a vote of the board for emergencies necessitating immediate expenditures when obtaining voter permission would be cost-prohibitive or when the expenditures are required by law.

It also provides that a reserve fund may be established for the following:

1. Funding school construction projects, financing the acquisition or reconstruction of a specific type of capital improvement or financing the acquisition of a specific item or type of capital equipment; and
2. Funding for expenditures such as regular instruction, special education, career and technical education, other instruction including summer school and extracurricular instruction, student and staff support, system administration, school administration, transportation and buses, facilities maintenance, debt service and other commitments and other expenditures, including school lunch.

The amendment also adds that, in order to expend funds by a vote of the boards or committees of school administrative districts, regional school units, community school districts and career and technical education regions, the respective boards and committees must provide public notice of the meeting at which the vote to expend funds from the reserve fund will be taken and hold a public hearing prior to the vote to expend funds from the reserve fund.

LD 1947 An Act To Fund Capital Improvements to Career and Technical Education Centers

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FECTEAU R CLAXTONN		

This bill authorizes the issuance and use of up to \$20,000,000 in Maine Governmental Facilities Authority securities for capital improvements to career and technical education centers and regions.

This bill, which had been voted but not yet reported out of committee, was carried over to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.