

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

December 2021

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## **JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

### **LD 278 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Develop a Process for the Consideration and Implementation of Changes to Mandated Instruction or Training for Students**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 65 directs the Department of Education to develop a process and timeline for reviewing legislation that proposes to mandate instruction or training for students. No later than January 15, 2022, the Department of Education must report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the process it develops and recommendations regarding review of mandated instruction or training proposals. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature related to the report.

### **LD 281 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Analyze Funding To Address Student Achievement Gaps**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 35 directs the Department of Education to analyze the current funding related to student achievement gaps related to race and income and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, no later than January 15, 2022, on the analysis conducted, the effectiveness of current funding, any issues identified and any recommendations developed.

### **LD 313 Resolve, To Advance Career and Technical Education Opportunities in Maine**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 36 directs the Department of Education to convene a work group to explore innovative approaches to advancing career and technical education opportunities for middle and high school students by:

1. Conducting a statewide inventory of available career and technical education programs;
2. Identifying existing systemic barriers to expanding access to career and technical education programs;
3. Exploring options for career and technical education programs to be included in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, endorsements;
4. Recommending changes to the career and technical education teacher certification process to address the shortage of career and technical education teachers by acknowledging skills demonstrated in a trade or profession;

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5. Proposing multiple college and career pathways for students to learn and demonstrate their knowledge in the career and technical education setting while creating programs that address the State's critical workforce shortage;
6. Considering new pathways within career and technical education programming;
7. Considering refinements to career and technical education certification; and
8. Using data provided by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to study the career and technical education funding formula.

The Department of Education is required to submit an interim report on the work conducted by the work group to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 15, 2021 and a final report no later than March 15, 2022. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit legislation related to either report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

### **LD 325 An Act To Allow Students Who Experienced Significant Education Interruption as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic To Be Eligible for a Department of Education Diploma**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 61 provides that until September 1, 2023, a 4th-year student is eligible to apply for a Department of Education diploma if the student is unable to satisfy the requirements for a diploma from a school administrative unit because the student experienced a significant interruption to the student's education as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and civil emergency during the student's secondary school education history.

Public Law 2021, chapter 61 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 25, 2021.

### **LD 334 An Act To Help Maine Students Catch Up and Keep Up by Providing Remedial and Compensatory Assistance in Response to Education Disruption**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 372 does the following.

1. It requires the Maine Community College System to waive tuition and fees for any Maine high school graduate who graduated during the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year and is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. The waiver is limited to the difference between the full cost of tuition and fees and the amount of the grant and is limited to two academic years. The Maine Community College System may request additional federal stimulus funds or General Fund