

# 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

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

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appropriations from the Legislature to offset this cost and the availability of the waiver is limited to the amount appropriated.

2. It directs the Department of Education to establish a grant program for school administrative units to fund school year and summer academic and enrichment programs for students who are scoring below proficient in English and mathematics based on local assessment and provides that the Department of Education must use federal stimulus funds, if available, and funds from the General Fund.
3. It provides that, for school administrative units with volunteer tutors for the summer of 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year, the Department of Education must use federal stimulus funds to fund an administrator for the tutoring program. Funds provided must be prioritized by the percentage of students at each school administrative unit eligible for federal free and reduced lunch programs.

### **LD 362 Resolve, To Require the Department of Education To Report on Family Income Data Collection**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 37 directs the Department of Education, no later than January 15, 2022, to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on strategies to use alternative databases and income measures to determine eligibility for public school nutrition programs. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

### **LD 386 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Establish the Process for Transitioning the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education Services for Children with Disabilities from 4 Years of Age to under 6 Years of Age from the Regional Child Development Services System to School Administrative Units**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 106 directs the Department of Education to establish a process, timeline and implementation plan for transitioning the provision of early childhood special education services for children with disabilities from four years of age to under six years of age from the regional Child Development Services System to school administrative units. It requires the department to establish an advisory committee to advise the department and requires the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than February 1, 2022. The report must include any suggested legislation necessary to implement the plan, including but not limited to transition periods and effective dates for various elements of the plan. The report must also identify and address contingencies necessary to implement the suggested legislation and plan and address each of the components required in the report with specificity. Additionally, the report must include a recommendation on whether the appropriate