

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH 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 816 An Act To Improve Communication between School Board Members and School Employees and Members of the Public

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 281 provides that a school board must regularly communicate with school employees in the school board's school administrative unit and members of the public who reside within the boundaries of the school administrative unit.

LD 880 An Act To Protect School Employees from Workplace Bullying

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 471 requires a school board to implement a policy to address the negative effects of bullying and cyberbullying of school employees by administrators, school employees, parents, students or any other individuals associated with the public school. It describes the elements that must be included in the policy. If an affected school employee is covered by a collective bargaining agreement, the policy is subject to the dispute resolution process of the collective bargaining agreement.

LD 924 Resolve, To Establish a Task Force To Study the Coordination of Services and Expansion of Educational Programs and Vocational Opportunities for Young Adults with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Acquired Brain Injury

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 116 establishes the Task Force To Study the Coordination of Services and Expansion of Educational Programs for Young Adults with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities to identify barriers inhibiting young adults with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, acquired brain injury and similar conditions, with a focus on those eligible for Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Sections 18, 20, 21 and 29 MaineCare home and community-based services waiver programs from being fully integrated into society and to recommend possible solutions.

The membership of the task force consists of Legislators who serve on the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs, health and human services matters and labor and housing matters, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of Labor, members of organizations or associations knowledgeable about services for young adults with disabilities after high school, parents or guardians or direct care providers of a young adult with a disability and young adults with disabilities who are eligible to receive services from the State.

The Commissioner of Education convenes the task force, which must hold a minimum of four meetings and focus on the degree to which transition planning services are effective in helping

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

students identify educational and vocational opportunities and in preparing students to access these opportunities; the benefits, assessments, expansion and availability of continuing educational opportunities for young adults with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, acquired brain injury and similar conditions; the vocational opportunities and work support services available to young adults with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, acquired brain injury and similar conditions; and the degree to which case managers and individualized education program teams engage with and connect students and their families with adult services that provide vocational supports, including home and community-based services waivers available through the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services and Office of Aging and Disability Services.

No later than one year after initial convening of the task force, the task force must submit a final report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

LD 961 An Act To Provide Equity in Access to Applications for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 212 requires the Department of Education to make the Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals developed for the Department of Education to be made available on the department's publicly accessible website, available in an understandable and uniform format and, to the maximum extent practicable, in a language that parents and legal guardians can understand. It requires all public schools to continue to distribute the paper application. It also requires that data submitted through the Internet-based application not be visible to the department and to be transmitted directly to the applicable public school.

LD 1049 Resolve, To Promote the Education of Students Who Participate in Health Education Classes Regarding Common Cancer Symptoms, the Bone Marrow Registry and Organ Donation

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 41 directs the Department of Education to work with oncologists and other medical professionals to create online content for school administrative units to use at no cost to educate high school and elementary school students who participate in health education classes about common early symptoms of cancer, the bone marrow registry and organ donation and requires the Department of Education to put the online content on the department's publicly accessible website.