

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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3. Meet the financial need of their students in their financial aid awards.

Postsecondary educational institutions are required to summarize in detail the results of their review, including best practices and recommendations for reform, and report the results of their review to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 1, 2021. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out legislation related to the reports to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

LD 1172 An Act To Delay State-mandated Teacher and Principal Evaluation

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 180 temporarily waives, during the 2021-22 school year, the requirement that school administrative units evaluate the performance of teachers and principals. Teachers in the 2nd year of a probationary period are not included in the waiver created by this law.

LD 1188 An Act To Include Career and Technical Education Teachers in the Minimum \$40,000 Salary Initiative

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 441 adds career and technical education teachers to the list of educators subject to the minimum \$40,000 salary requirement. It also requires the Department of Education to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the status of the salary initiative. The report must include verification that all professions intended to be included in the initiative are in fact included. If the department identifies any areas of deficiency, its report to the committee must include a plan for remediation. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the department's report in the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

Public Law 2021, chapter 441 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 9, 2021.

LD 1189 An Act To Amend the Teacher Certification Statutes

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 228 makes changes to the statutes governing teacher certification as follows.

1. It amends the definition of "educational specialist".
2. It creates a new emergency teacher certificate and reciprocal professional certificate.

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3. It revises the minimum State Board of Education rules for qualifications for a professional teacher certificate by removing the requirement that an applicant pass a qualifying examination and instead providing that an applicant may qualify by graduating from an educator preparation program or by meeting criteria established by the state board by passing a qualifying examination, meeting minimum grade point average requirements in required course work or demonstrating qualification through a portfolio review of academic or work experience.
4. It amends the rule requirements regarding a school psychologist certificate.

Public Law 2021, chapter 228 also directs the State Board of Education to amend its certification rules, which are major substantive rules, and provides that an applicant who is subject to a provision of law that provides that amendments to the rule do not apply to certain persons may choose to apply pursuant to the current rules or the amended rules.

Public Law 2021, chapter 228 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 16, 2021.

LD 1198 An Act Authorizing an Increase to the Maximum Annual Fund Balance for Public School Districts

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 213 provides that a school board may carry forward unallocated balances in excess of 5% of the previous year's school budget, and disburse these funds in the next year or over a period not to exceed three years, without reduction of the state and local share of the total allocation for the purpose of computing state subsidy. For fiscal years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, the carry-forward limit is established at 9% of the previous year's school budget without reduction of the state and local share of the total allocation for the purpose of computing state subsidy.

LD 1318 An Act To Increase High School Graduation Rates for Students Experiencing Education Disruption

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 445 amends the laws regarding students who experience education disruption and Department of Education diplomas as follows:

1. It amends the definition of "education disruption" to include migrant students who have been identified as such by the United States Department of Education's migrant education program and immigrant students who have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more states or territories for more than three full academic years in the aggregate;