

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 1323 An Act To Maximize Service to Students by Adopting Conditional Allowances for Participation by Families of School Board Members in School Activities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 242 provides that until July 1, 2024 a school board may, but is not required to, permit a school board member's spouse to serve as a stipend employee or a volunteer. A school board may adopt a written policy on nepotism that includes hiring practices for school-sanctioned stipend positions and to discourage favoritism and political patronage, consider the needs of the school system and provide that all qualified applicants or volunteers have a fair and equal opportunity to be selected on merit, with priority consideration given to the best interest of students without restrictions based solely on family association.

LD 1373 An Act To Keep All Maine Students Safe by Restricting the Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Schools

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 453 prohibits a covered entity, defined as an entity that owns, operates or controls a school or educational program that receives public funds from the department, including but not limited to public schools, public regional programs, public charter schools, private schools, private schools approved for tuition purposes, special purpose private schools, career and technical education programs, public prekindergarten programs, and providers of services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, from subjecting a student to unlawful restraint or seclusion and provides when a covered entity is permitted to use physical restraint or seclusion.

Public Law 2021, chapter 453 also requires each covered entity to submit a report to the Department of Education annually on the use of physical restraint and seclusion and requires the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to covered entities and adopt or amend major substantive rules regarding restraint and seclusion.

LD 1412 An Act To Update and Improve the MaineEARNs Database and Reconvene the State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 243 requires the Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Education and the State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force, to update the educational outcome database established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 12901, also known as the MaineEARNs database, no later than January 1, 2022 and biennially thereafter.

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Public Law 2021, chapter 243 also requires that appointments to the State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force pursuant to Title 20-A, section 12901 be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this legislation. The task force is directed to study the updating of, and improvements to, the MaineEARNNS database. The task force must report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs and labor and housing matters no later than November 1, 2022. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs may report out a bill related to the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1451 An Act To Align the Expulsion Process with School Disciplinary Policies

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 320 aligns language across several provisions of law governing student discipline. It adds a reference to school board disciplinary policies in the language describing due process for expulsion, provides school boards with increased flexibility to allow superintendents and principals to consider alternatives to expulsion of a student and provides that these alternatives must be in writing. It adds a reference to restorative interventions to the language describing the requirement to develop an individualized response plan to avoid dangerous student behavior after a substantiated report of an incident of dangerous behavior.

LD 1664 An Act To Integrate African American Studies and the History of Genocide into the Statewide System of Learning Results

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 247 provides that, beginning July 1, 2023, African American studies, Maine African American studies and the history of genocide must be included in the content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 4.

Public Law 2021, chapter 247 requires the department to convene a volunteer advisory committee to collect information and prepare materials for teaching African American studies and Maine African American studies and to develop and provide guidance, best practices and exemplar modules to local school administrative units to integrate African American studies and Maine African American studies into their curriculum. It also requires the department to develop a process to enable a local school administrative unit to conduct an internal audit of its curriculum to ensure an equitable representation of African American voices and an accurate historical account of African American history and culture and requires the department to submit a report on the progress of the implementation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than April 1, 2022.