

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2022

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

education and cultural affairs no later than January 15, 2023 on the progress toward the transition to the program-based model, including suggested legislation necessary to finalize the transition. The committee may report out legislation based on the report.

LD 1632 An Act To Update the Laws Regarding the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 646 updates the chapter of law governing the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf as follows.

1. It establishes the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf as a deaf and hard-of-hearing service provider, referred to as "the center," encompassing the Mackworth Island preschool, located at Mackworth Island, as an integrated preschool program for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and typically developing children, early intervention services that include deaf and hard-of-hearing related services delivered to children from birth to under three years of age who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and statewide education and family services that are provided to schools throughout the State by staff employed through the center including, but not limited to, site-based programs, consultation, evaluation and specially designed instruction.
2. It revises the definitions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 304 to reflect the change from a school to a deaf and hard-of-hearing service provider, including but not limited to updating the definitions of "center," "sending school," "statewide education and family services" and "Mackworth Island preschool," removing definitions that are no longer needed and adding new definitions for "site-based program," "early intervention and family services program," "room and board," "host school" and "504 plan."
3. It repeals the section of law that governs the school programs operated by Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and satellite school programs.
4. It amends the provision of law governing funding and tuition for the Mackworth Island preschool and site-based programs.
5. It repeals the section of law governing student placement, state and federal educational services requirements and technical assistance and in new sections provides for the student placement and state and federal services requirements and technical assistance for early intervention services, federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 1419 services, statewide education and family services and the Mackworth Island preschool and site-based programs, as appropriate.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

6. It updates the powers and duties of the center's board and removes provisions related to certificates and grants of diplomas or other duties specific to the center's previous role as a school.
7. It also provides that individual memoranda of understanding may be established to further define enrollment criteria, clarifies student conduct and provides that the center's board may create, maintain and expand site-based programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing children and families to meet the needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing children statewide.

LD 1679 An Act Regarding Expanding Access to Free School Meals

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 719 requires that public schools accept data submitted through an Internet-based application for free or reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Public Law 2021, chapter 719 also requires the Department of Education to investigate the cost of providing free and reduced-priced meals for publicly funded students at certain private schools approved for tuition purposes who are otherwise ineligible to receive free and reduced-price meals and report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than February 1, 2023.

The substance of the original bill, requiring the State to pay the difference between the federal requirement for a free breakfast or lunch and the full price for a breakfast or lunch at no cost to the students who are ineligible for free or reduced-price school meal was incorporated into Public Law 2021, chapter 398, Part OOOO.

LD 1716 An Act To Ensure Full Payment of the State's Salary Supplement Obligation to Teachers with National Board Certification

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 694 directs the Commissioner of Education to pay annual national board certification salary supplements to school administrative units and publicly supported secondary schools for payment to national board-certified teachers effective July 1, 2023. Funding for these salary supplements comes from credential fees paid by teachers. If these fees are insufficient to fully fund these salary supplements, general purpose aid must be appropriated to fund the balance.