

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 1672 An Act To Require That Private Schools That Enroll 60 Percent or More Publicly Funded Students Meet Certain Requirements

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 386 amends the requirements that must be met by private schools receiving public funds for tuition purposes by adding that the schools must have a curriculum aligned with the system of learning results established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209 and meet health and safety requirements applicable to public schools. It also provides that if public funding supports more than 85% of a private school's students and the students in the municipality where the school is located do not have school choice, the school must enroll all students from that municipality, including those with disabilities, who must be served in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

LD 1684 Resolve, To Strengthen Maine's Workforce by Expanding English Language Acquisition and Workforce Training Programs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 68 directs the Department of Education's office of adult education to establish a competitive grant process for adult education programs of school administrative units in communities experiencing an increase in immigrant populations or demand to reduce the waiting list for English language acquisition classes or to increase the levels, frequency or intensity of English language acquisition instruction offered as needed by the communities and to provide industry-specific English language acquisition combined with workforce training in the specific skill areas required for identified workforce needs of employers in this State. The office must consider grants to cover all areas of the State with an emphasis on areas with large immigrant populations, where there is a need for skilled workers that the training may provide or areas with growing industries.

The Department of Education must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, no later than November 1, 2022, that includes:

1. The number and amount of grants awarded;
2. The training and services provided by the grant recipients or progress toward establishing new programs to deliver the training and services;
3. Aggregate demographic information about immigrant participants in the training, participating employers, employment opportunities, employment placements and retention by employers of immigrant participants placed under this section; and
4. An evaluation of programs and services most effective in carrying out the purposes of this resolve.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill to the 131st Legislature to continue the grant process or make it permanent.

LD 1705 An Act To Support Maine Students Who Are Dependents of Current or Former Members of the Military

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 248 establishes the Purple Star Schools Program administered by the Department of Education. It provides that:

1. A dependent of a member of the United States Armed Forces who has received official military orders to relocate to this State is eligible to apply to a virtual public charter school;
2. A military-connected student whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to the State while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order is considered a resident of the school administrative unit in which the address identified by the parent is located; and
3. A spouse or dependent child of an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is assigned to duty out of the State immediately following assignment to duty in the State is eligible for in-state tuition and fees at the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System or the Maine Maritime Academy as long as the spouse or dependent child is continuously enrolled in the postsecondary institution.