

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

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## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

### **LD 1802 An Act To Amend the Requirements of the Reorganization Plan for the Formation of Regional School Units**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 537 provides that the Commissioner of Education may approve a school administrative unit's proposed reorganization plan for consolidation into a regional school unit if the plan provides comprehensive programming:

1. For all students from grade 9 to grade 12 within the regional school unit, with programming for students from kindergarten to grade 8 provided by the separate school administrative units;
2. For all students from kindergarten to grade 8 within the regional school unit, with programming for students from grade 9 to grade 12 provided by either operating a school or contracting for school privileges pursuant to chapter 115; or
3. For all students in a grade configuration that meets the needs of the students from the municipalities that make up the regional school unit, with programming for all other students provided by either operating a school or contracting for school privileges pursuant to chapter 115.

Public Law 2021, chapter 537 also repeals a provision that provided an additional exception to the size requirements for a proposed reorganization plan for consolidation into a regional school unit for students in an isolated rural community that is no longer necessary.

### **LD 1816 An Act To Promote Labor Education through the University of Maine System**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 722 directs the University of Maine System to establish a labor and community education center at the University of Southern Maine focused on providing lifelong community-based labor education, research and outreach and provides ongoing funds to establish the center.

### **LD 1838 An Act To Improve Student Access to Postsecondary School Transcripts and Diplomas**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 538 provides that, upon the request of a current or former student, a two-year postsecondary educational institution or four-year postsecondary educational institution is required to provide that student's transcript or diploma and may not condition the release of the transcript or diploma on an agreement to a repayment plan unless the student owes a debt of \$500

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or more at a two-year postsecondary educational institution or \$2,500 or more at a four-year postsecondary educational institution. If a student is required to agree to a repayment plan, the postsecondary educational institution must provide the student with the right to appeal the terms of the repayment plan and collect data on the reason for the request for the release of the transcript or diploma, including but not limited to a job application, a transfer to another institution, an application for financial aid, pursuit of opportunities in the military or National Guard or pursuit of other postsecondary educational opportunities. A postsecondary educational institution may not require a student to make a payment on a repayment plan prior to releasing the transcript or diploma.

Public Law 2021, chapter 538 also requires postsecondary educational institutions to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on requests for and the release of transcripts and diplomas.

### **LD 1845 An Act To Amend the Education Statutes**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 571 makes the following technical changes to the law governing primary and secondary education.

1. It changes the name of and references to restructuring schools to innovative schools.
2. It clarifies that schools that offer public preschool programs must demonstrate curriculum practice for those programs that implements the Maine early learning and development (MELD) standards established by the Department of Education.
3. It updates the name of the system used for teaching mathematical notation to students who are blind and the definition of Braille in regard to educating students who are blind.
4. It clarifies the general requirements for secondary school programs, including program length and diploma requirements.
5. It updates a reference to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.
6. It updates compliance and information requirements for career and technical education regions.
7. It removes outdated language relevant to previous years' calculations of the school funding formula, system administration allocations and bus purchase costs.
8. It updates the definition of property fiscal capacity.