

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST 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**

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**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILLS AND
SUMMARIES OF ENACTED LAWS**

This *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* provides the disposition of all LDs and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Maine Legislature. Please note that all LDs and proposed amendments may be found through the Legislature’s webpage, and each includes a summary of what the bill or amendment proposed.

The *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* is arranged alphabetically by committee. Within each committee section is a subject index of all LDs considered by that committee as well as a digest of the LDs, arranged by LD number. Also included are enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed. Brief analyst notes on certain LDs are also included: a committee digest will indicate if additional notes are provided for an LD. These notes add information staff found useful and may provide useful information to users of this *Digest*; please note that most LDs do not have a note and lack of a note should not be interpreted as having any significance. A separate section of the *Digest* provides a digest of the relatively few LDs that were not referred to a committee or reported from a committee as a committee bill; enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed are provided. Finally, an appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

The final disposition of each LD is noted in the relevant summary digest and index. The following describes the various final actions.

CARRIED OVER..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor’s request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X..... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor’s veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature is Thursday, June 29, 2023 and Wednesday, October 25, 2023, respectively. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LD 15 An Act to Amend the Law Governing the State Grant Program Administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 9 amends certain provisions of the law governing the state grant program administered by the director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The changes include changing the term "historic structure" to "historic property."

LD 79 An Act to Ensure a High-quality Education for Students with Disabilities by Clarifying the Definition of "State Agency Client" and Who Provides Special Education Programs and Services

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 449, clarifies the definition of "state agency client" for the purposes of special education and clarifies who is entitled to establish or obligated to provide special education programs and related services.

LD 98 An Act to Update the Special Education Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 450, changes the age of eligibility for special education and for participation in career and technical education courses by adults who are enrolled in special education from under 20 years of age to under 22 years of age, replaces the term "pupil evaluation team" with "individualized education program team," replaces the term "serious emotional disturbance" to "emotional disability" and replaces the term "hearing impairment, including deafness" to "deafness, including hearing loss."

LD 100 An Act to Require Annual Financial Audits of Certain Private Schools Approved for Tuition Purposes

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 112, requires a private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls 60% or more publicly funded students to submit to the State Auditor and the Commissioner of Education within six months after the end of the school's audit period satisfactory proof that the books, accounts, financial documents and reports of the school for the preceding fiscal year have been examined and found to be in satisfactory and accurate condition with proper vouchers on file. The audit must be conducted by the Office of the State Auditor, a public accountant licensed to practice in the State or an individual or firm the department has determined is a competent auditor

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

by training and experience and the department is directed to adopt routine technical rules implement the requirement.

LD 129 Resolve, to Direct the University of Maine System to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Public Allopathic Medical School in Penobscot County

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 114 directs the University of Maine System to study the feasibility of establishing a public allopathic medical school in Penobscot County and make specific recommendations in its report. It also directs the University of Maine System to coordinate with a tertiary care hospital medical education program in Penobscot County and solicit the advice, participation or testimony of other organizations. Resolve 2023, chapter 114 also requires the University of Maine System to report its findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by November 6, 2025. The joint standing committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

LD 204 An Act to Ensure Safe Access to Schools by Implementing Interlocking Door Controller Technology

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 452, requires a school administrative unit to install interlocking door control technology in newly-constructed elementary and secondary schools or elementary and secondary schools that are undergoing renovation and provides one-time funding in fiscal year 2024-25 for that purpose.

LD 232 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Bonding Restrictions for School Administrative Units

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 210 extends the allowed term of bonds issued by school administrative districts and regional school units from 25 to 30 years.

LD 320 An Act to Support the Maine Multicultural Center

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 428 provides one-time funds of \$190,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 to the Maine Multicultural Center in Bangor for one or more positions to establish a comprehensive program for foreign-trained workers through the Maine Multicultural Center.