

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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STATE OF MAINE
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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

provides that career and technical education students may satisfy local diploma requirements in accordance with the equivalency agreements included in the cooperative agreements.

Public Law 2023, chapter 247 requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, section 21, 2/3 of all of the members elected to each House have determined it necessary to enact Public Law 2023, chapter 247.

LD 477 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center to Convene a Stakeholder Group to Develop Best Practices for Lockdown Drills and Active Shooter Drills and Allowing Parents to Opt Out of Active Shooter Drills for Their Children

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 115 directs the Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center to convene a stakeholder group to develop best practices for lockdown and active shooter drills implemented by school administrative units to minimize traumatic impact on students and school staff and report back to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by January 1, 2025 on the work of the stakeholder group. The report must include information regarding the best practices for lockdown drills and active shooter drills and a plan for all school staff to be trained in their school administrative unit's emergency plan prior to January 1, 2026, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the range of lockdown drills and active shooter drills as implemented by public schools at increasing safety, the traumatic impact of lockdown drills and active shooter drills on students and school staff, the number of school administrative units using best practices for lockdown drills and active shooter drills and other strategies to ensure students and school staff are prepared to respond to emergencies, including school shootings.

Resolve 2023, chapter 115 also requires the Department of Education to amend the rule to allow parents to opt out of active shooter drills for their children.

LD 485 Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Study Educator Credential Requirements

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 54 requires the State Board of Education to study potential changes to the State Board of Education rule Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel. The study must include, but is not limited to, review of athletic director qualifications, the industrial arts endorsement, waivers for educators holding certificates from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, reciprocity for educators holding out-of-state certification and any other revisions the State Board of Education identifies.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The State Board of Education is directed to submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 2, 2024 and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 489 An Act to Provide Equal Educational Opportunity by Adopting Rules Ensuring Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Status in Educational Institutions

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 105 amends the Maine Human Rights Act to direct the Commissioner of Education and the Maine Human Rights Commission to review the rules made under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 337, subchapter 5-B on or before January 15, 2024 and at least once every 10 years thereafter to reflect changes in statute and best practices to ensure an individual's right to freedom from discrimination in education. Resolve 2023, chapter 105 also requires the department and the commission to initiate rulemaking as soon as practicable if the review determines that amendments to the rules are necessary.

LD 631 An Act to Change the Notification Law for School Truancy

Public Law 2023, chapter 99 provides that a superintendent may make 2 documented attempts to serve or cause to be served on a parent the written notice that attendance of the parent's child at school is required by law and provides that that notice may be served by registered or certified mail. This law is repealed September 1, 2025.

LD 684 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Study the Educare Model

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 116 directs the Department of Education to identify the critical components for success of the Educare model for publicly-funded statewide early childhood education programs and identify the public and private resources and implementation strategies necessary for those critical components. The Department of Education is directed to submit a report by January 29, 2025 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

LD 753 An Act to Allow Retired Teachers and Educational Technicians to Be Recertified

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 442 provides that a professional teacher certificate or educational technician certificate may be reissued to a teacher or educational technician who has been retired