

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**

October 2023

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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

LD 947 An Act to Support the Distribution of Free Summer Lunches for Children

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 181 requires that rules adopted to implement school food service programs allow the greatest flexibility allowed under federal law with respect to meal times and packaging of meals to send home with students.

LD 1002 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Study the School Day

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 124 directs the Department of Education to convene a working group to study the school day. The study must be informed by any relevant research conducted by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute. The working group is required to consider, at a minimum: statewide, national and international approaches to the school day; instructional requirements for graduation, including but not limited to instruction in health and physical education, traffic safety education, elements of a firearm hunter safety course and a stand-alone course in personal finance; educator planning and preparation time; lunch periods, including but not limited to transit time and time required to eat; recess periods, including the timing of recess before or after lunch periods, frequency of recess periods and differences in recess periods at each grade level; electives and allied arts courses; to the extent offered, after-school and extended day programs; and school day start times.

The department is required to submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than February 1, 2024 and the joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1018 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Establish a Working Group to Review the State Board of Education's Membership, Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 125 directs the Department of Education to establish a working group of stakeholders and other interested parties to review the responsibilities, functions and staffing of the State Board of Education. The department is directed to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the findings of the working group by January 15, 2025.