

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
131ST LEGISLATURE
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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.

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LD 1026 Resolve, to Direct the University of Maine System to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Dental Therapy Degree Program at the University of Maine at Augusta

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 56 directs the University of Maine System to study the feasibility of establishing a dental therapy degree program at the University of Maine at Augusta. The system must consider costs associated with establishing the program, demand for such a program and any other issues the system considers appropriate. By November 6, 2024, the University of Maine System must submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The committee may report out legislation to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 based on the report.

LD 1033 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Develop and Distribute Guidance for Diploma Options at the Arthur R. Gould School

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 41 directs the Department of Education to create and distribute guidance for superintendents, principals, school counselors and the principal of the Arthur R. Gould School to inform them of diploma options for residents of the Long Creek Youth Development Center who are attending the Arthur R. Gould School pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-A, section 3815 and who are preparing to graduate.

LD 1089 An Act to Require Presentation of the Maine Charter School Commission's Annual Report

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 183 requires the Maine Charter School Commission or a representative of the commission to appear before the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters to present its annual report. The commission's appearance before the committee must be in person unless otherwise authorized.

LD 1160 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Analyze Data on the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula and Allocation Methodology

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 118 directs the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, to identify and analyze all school funding data and reports available through or compiled by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, the so-called Picus report and any other relevant data and reports available to the department in order to make

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recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The analysis must include, but is not limited to, components of the school funding formula such as transportation costs, a municipality's ability to contribute to school funding, allocations for career and technical education, metrics for calculating the economically disadvantaged student factor, and any other components or issues identified.

Resolve 2023, chapter 118 requires the department to provide the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs monthly updates and submit a final report to the committee no later than January 15, 2024. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs is authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1183 An Act to Establish the School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 457 establishes the School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund in the Department of Education to issue grants to eligible school administrative units to purchase school kitchen and cafeteria equipment needed to serve healthy meals, to improve food safety in school kitchens and cafeterias, to support the maintenance and expansion of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and to reimburse food costs related to medically necessary dietary restrictions of students. It also requires the department to apply for federal grants available to support these purposes and requires the State Controller to lapse \$343,781 in unencumbered balances from the Department of Education, Alternative Breakfast Delivery Service Program, General Fund carrying account, All Other line category to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2024.

LD 1264 Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 102 establishes the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education to review all laws and rules pertaining to higher education in the State and addressing related public policy.

LD 1283 Resolve, to Reestablish the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 92 reestablishes the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System. The Task Force's duties include examining the feasibility of establishing a comprehensive four-year high school career and technical education