

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.

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LD 1415 An Act to Expand Access to School Construction Funding

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 462 does the following.

1. It requires the State Board of Education, in administering funding for integrated, consolidated 9-16 educational facilities, to allow the governing body of one high school or a regional high school to apply for funding for a proposed school. Current state board rules require 2 high schools or a regional high school to apply. It directs the board to amend its rules to be consistent with this change.
2. It allows for one school administrative unit with multiple high schools, instead of one high school or a regional high school, to apply for funding for an integrated, consolidated grade 9-16 educational facility under State Board of Education rules.
3. It allows a school administrative unit, in fiscal year 2024-25, to apply for funding for both a major capital school construction project under State Board of Education rules.
4. It requires the Commissioner of Education to conduct a study for the purpose of making recommendations on researching and identifying alternative pathways or revenue sources to finance school construction needs in the State.

LD 1420 An Act to Strengthen Maine's Elementary and Secondary Education System by Clarifying Purposes and Procedures for Reviews of Schools

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, Chapter 397 provides that the Commissioner of Education shall inspect private schools approved for tuition purposes that enroll 60% or more publicly funded students in the same manner as a school or schools in a school administrative unit upon the petition of 60% of the parents of the children of one school, if requested by the school board of a qualified sending school administrative unit or upon the petition of 20% of the voters of a qualified sending school administrative unit. A “qualified sending school administrative unit” is defined as a school administrative unit that contracts for school privileges for at least 20% of its resident students to attend the private school approved for tuition purposes that is the subject of the request or petition.

Public Law 2023, chapter 397 also provides that in addition to the commissioner periodically reviewing all public schools and all private schools that receive public funds to determine their compliance with the applicable provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, the commissioner shall also review for compliance with the Maine Human Rights Act.

Public Law 2023, chapter 397 also provides for a comprehensive review of schools, school administrative units and private schools approved for tuition purposes. The commissioner is

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required to select 5 schools, school administrative units or private schools approved for tuition purposes at random every two years, with exceptions for schools going through New England Association of Schools or Colleges (NEASC) accreditation or who have gone through a comprehensive review within the past 10 years. Selected schools are required to ensure the physical site is available for review and make available to the commissioner documents related to basic school approval, compliance with the Maine Human Rights Act, the statewide assessment program, implementation of the system of learning results and health and safety requirements. If the commissioner finds that a school or schools are not in compliance with basic school approval standards or other requirements of Title 20-A, the commissioner is required to provide the school or schools with a corrective action plan. If the commissioner finds that a school or schools are not in compliance with the Maine Human Rights Act, the commissioner is required to refer the finding to the Maine Human Rights Commission.

LD 1458 An Act to Increase Funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 464 appropriates funding to support the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and provides that students from the State may attend the school without paying the cost of room and board. It also requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics to annually submit a sustainability report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.

LD 1472 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to Amend Their Rules Regarding the Maine School Facilities Finance Program and the School Revolving Renovation Fund

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 44 directs the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to amend their rules governing the Maine School Facilities Finance Program and the School Revolving Renovation Fund to increase the maximum total loans from the fund for repair, renovation and improvement projects for Priority One, Priority Two, Priority Three, Priority Four and Priority Five projects for a school building from \$4,000,000 to \$8,000,000 and to increase the maximum loan amount from the fund to address each priority level in a school building from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 within any 5-year period.