

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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Public Law 2023, chapter 469 also directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) to study the development of career ladders for educators and requires MEPRI to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 6, 2023.

LD 1656 An Act to Allow Student Representation Within the Governance of the University of Maine System

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private & Special Law 2023, chapter 14 adds one additional member to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System. It requires the Governor to appoint one undergraduate student and one graduate student that have been jointly recommended by the student government associations of each campus to the Board of Trustees. It provides that the student members are full voting members of the board of trustees and serve two-year terms and requires the board of trustees to adopt a policy on student membership with input from the student members and to report this policy to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by November 6, 2024.

LD 1786 An Act to Repeal and Replace the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 12 replaces the original 1953 charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District, as amended. It eliminates numerous outdated charter provisions and aligns governance and operations with state law. It follows the budget validation referendum process in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105 and requires voter approval of capital bonds. It retains the district's current cost-sharing formula.

LD 1799 An Act to Expand Maine's High-quality Early Learning and Care for Children by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 477 establishes an annual reporting requirement for the Department of Education to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the expansion of public preschool programs and adds that it is the goal of the State to establish an equitable, mixed-delivery public preschool system that provides universal access for preschool-aged children and their families in accordance with the following timeline: 60% by the 2024-2025 school year; 80% by the 2025-2026 school year; and 100% by the 2026-2027 school year.

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Public Law 2023, chapter 477 also establishes the Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education and requires the commission to explore options to provide full-day preschool and pathways for publicly funded early care and education programs, develop a plan and make recommendations on aligning programs and blending and braiding funding.

Public Law 2023, chapter 477 requires the Department of Education to develop a plan to align the credentials and training earned through the Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network with those earned through the Department of Education early childhood education certification. The Department is also required to report, no later than November 15, 2023, to the commission and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on progress relating to public preschool expansion, including establishment of state and community partnerships for a mixed delivery of child care and early childhood education programs and services through community and school-based providers.

Public Law 2023, chapter 477 requires the commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than December 6, 2023. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill based on the recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1861 An Act to Reduce Chronic Student Absenteeism

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 480 requires school administrative units to establish attendance review teams or committees to address chronic absenteeism if chronic absenteeism rates exceed certain levels. An attendance review team may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school counselors, school social workers or teachers.

LD 1988 An Act to Provide Critical Matching Funds for Child Care Services on the Northern Maine Community College Campus

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 486 provides one-time funding in fiscal year 2024-25 to match funds provided for child care services on the Northern Maine Community College Campus.