MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

132ND 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

August 2025

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LD 375 Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System to Study the Feasibility of Distance Learning Programs at the University of Maine School of Law

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 46 requires the University of Maine System to study the feasibility of expanding the current juris doctor degree program at the University of Maine School of Law to offer distance learning courses and to examine providing a new juris doctor degree program providing 100% distance learning. The study must consider the costs of operating the current juris doctor degree program with distance learning courses and the cost of operating a new juris doctor degree program providing 100% distance learning courses.

The University of Maine System must submit a report with its findings, including suggested legislation, by November 4, 2026 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the contents of the report.

LD 384 An Act to Prevent Student Homelessness

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 453 establishes the Student Homelessness Prevention Program within the Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide direct financial assistance to prevent student homelessness and support students and their families in maintaining stable permanent housing.

LD 396 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Develop a Grant Program to Encourage Secondary Schools to Adopt Later Start Times

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 110 directs the Department of Education to establish a grant program to encourage school administrative units to collaborate on changing school start times to allow secondary schools to have a start time of 8:30 a.m. or later. Funds awarded through the grant program must be used by school administrative units to develop plans to allow secondary schools to start at or after 8:30 a.m. by coordinating school start times among the unit's schools or in partnership with neighboring school administrative units. The department is required to adopt rules to ensure that grant funding is awarded in a fair and equitable manner.