

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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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
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LD 1103 An Act Regarding Unallocated Balances in a School Administrative Unit School Budget

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 208 modifies the provision of law related to carrying forward general operating fund unallocated balances at the end of a school administrative unit's fiscal year. Prior to the enactment of Public Law 2025, chapter 208, unallocated balances in excess of 5% of the previous fiscal year's school budget had to be used to reduce the state and local share of the total allocation for the purposes of computing state subsidy and school boards could carry forward unallocated balances in excess of 5% of the previous year's school budget and disburse the funds over a period not to exceed three years, except for in fiscal years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, during which time the applicable percentage threshold was 9% of the previous year's school budget, not 5%. Public Law 2025, chapter 208 modifies this provision to provide that the temporary percentage threshold of 9% applies to all future fiscal years.

LD 1163 Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Amend Its Educator Credentialing Rules to Create a Pathway for an Industrial Arts Endorsement

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 68 directs the State Board of Education to amend its rule Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements to create a pathway for an industrial arts endorsement for a teacher certificate.

Resolve 2025, chapter 68 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 12, 2025.

LD 1234 An Act Regarding Cellular Telephones in Public Schools

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 210 provides that, by August 1, 2026, a school board must adopt a policy related to use of personal electronic devices during the school day. The policy must include, but is not limited to, provisions related to student use of cellular telephones and wearable electronic devices.

LD 1248 An Act Regarding Physical Escort and Restraint and Seclusion of Students in Schools

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 266 provides a definition of “serious physical injury” as it relates to the use of physical restraint and seclusion in schools and requires the Department of Education to submit a report on the use of physical restraint and seclusion in schools to the joint standing

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committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than January 1, 2029.

LD 1327 Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System to Study Student Teacher Compensation

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 88 directs the University of Maine System to convene a stakeholder group to study the development of a compensation structure for student teaching in the State. The University of Maine System is required to submit a report on the findings of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by November 6, 2025.

LD 1332 An Act to Establish the Community Schools Success Fund to Ensure the Implementation and Success of Community Schools Programs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 410 establishes the Community Schools Success Fund, a nonlapsing fund within the Department of Education, to provide grants to community schools, local education providers, school administrative units that have begun developing community school plans and nonprofit organizations to support community school programming.

LD 1404 Resolve, to Create a Working Group on the Status of School Libraries and on Public Libraries in Maine

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 117 directs the State Librarian to convene a working group on the status of school libraries and public libraries in the State. The working group is required to study:

1. Library services for specific segments of the Maine population;
2. The role that libraries play in emergency preparedness; cultural diversity and inclusion; public health and safety; community identity and resiliency; and economic development; and
3. Access to public services and resources; and the current overall status of school and public libraries in the State, including information on partnerships, resources, facilities, technology and staffing.

The State Librarian is required to submit a report of the working group's findings and recommendations by November 1, 2027 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having