

STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

May 2026

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Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

SUBJECT INDEX

Adult Education

Enacted LD 1705 An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight PUBLIC 722

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Career and Technical Education

Not Enacted LD 1764 An Act to Ensure Equitable Staffing Ratios Across the State for Career and Technical Education Programs in Areas with Smaller Student Populations Died On Adjournment

LD 2014 An Act to Update the Funding Method for Career and Technical Education Programs ONTP

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	LD 1069	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Personal Finance Course Offerings in Maine Schools and Convene a Working Group of Relevant Stakeholders	RESOLVE 125
	LD 1202	Resolve, Requiring the Department of Education to Develop Professional Opportunities for Educators in African American Studies	RESOLVE 169
	LD 1474	An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools	PUBLIC 762
Not Enacted	LD 78	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Cursive Instruction in Maine Public Schools	Died On Adjournment

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	LD 324	An Act Regarding Funding for Educational Programs and Opportunities	PUBLIC 527
	LD 370	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Secondary School Mathematics Requirements	RESOLVE 122
	LD 470	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maine Public Schools	RESOLVE 124
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	LD 1202	Resolve, Requiring the Department of Education to Develop Professional Opportunities for Educators in African American Studies	RESOLVE 169
	LD 1474	An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools	PUBLIC 762
Not Enacted	LD 78	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Cursive Instruction in Maine Public Schools	Died On Adjournment
	LD 437	An Act Directing the Department of Education to Develop Pilot Programs to Place Child Care Facilities in Selected School Administrative Units	Died On Adjournment

LD 2020	An Act to Update Department of Education Reporting Requirements	ONTP
LD 2034	An Act to Support Funding for Educational Programs and Opportunities	ONTP
LD 2045	An Act to Amend the Education Laws Regarding the State Board of Education's Authority Concerning Degree-granting Institutions	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310

Early Childhood and Public Preschool Programs

Enacted	LD 2114	An Act Regarding Public Preschool Programs Serving Children Who Are 3 Years of Age	PUBLIC 633
Not Enacted	LD 437	An Act Directing the Department of Education to Develop Pilot Programs to Place Child Care Facilities in Selected School Administrative Units	Died On Adjournment
	LD 2064	An Act to Expand Access to Early Childhood Nutrition by Establishing a Grant Program for Public Preschools	Died On Adjournment

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Enacted	LD 2192	An Act Regarding School Employee Investigations	PUBLIC 697
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Education - Other

Not Enacted	LD 281	An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State	Died On Adjournment
	LD 295	An Act Regarding Education	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310
	LD 354	An Act to Improve Education in Maine	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310
	LD 361	An Act to Support the Francis Malcolm Science Center	Died On Adjournment
	LD 823	An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Provide for Statewide and Equitable Access to Experiential Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Competition Programs	Died On Adjournment
	LD 973	An Act to Establish the Community Partnerships with Public School Systems Grant Program	Died On Adjournment

LD 1740 An Act to Establish the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Education Matching Grant Program Died On Adjournment

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Not Enacted LD 1588 An Act to Ensure Transparency in Student Transfer Requests Died On Adjournment

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Not Enacted LD 2014 An Act to Update the Funding Method for Career and Technical Education Programs ONTP

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LD 858 An Act to Ensure Behavioral and Mental Health Services Are Available to Students by Providing Grants to Schools That Contract for Those Services PUBLIC 533

LD 2017 An Act to Update Certain Statutes Governing School Nutrition PUBLIC 717

LD 2046 An Act to Update Certain Duties Regarding Student Health Related to Communicable and Infectious Disease PUBLIC 627

Not Enacted LD 577 An Act to Maximize Federal Funding and Protect Maine's School Meals Programs Died On Adjournment

LD 1123 An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools Died On Adjournment

LD 2064 An Act to Expand Access to Early Childhood Nutrition by Establishing a Grant Program for Public Preschools Died On Adjournment

High School Diplomas and Graduation Requirements

Enacted LD 370 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Secondary School Mathematics Requirements RESOLVE 122

Magnet Schools

Enacted	LD 2008	An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics	PUBLIC 726
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Postsecondary Education - General

Enacted	LD 1558	Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education	RESOLVE 120
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	LD 2098	An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes and Laws	PUBLIC 630
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	LD 2099	An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary Students Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses	PUBLIC 631
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Not Enacted	LD 2091	An Act to Continue Training Programs for Emergency Medical Services	ONTP
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	LD 2147	An Act to Provide Funding to Improve the College and Career Readiness of Certain Students in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties	Died On Adjournment
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Postsecondary Education Finance and Student Aid

Enacted	LD 46	An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder	PUBLIC 519
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Not Enacted	LD 457	An Act to Fund Climate Resiliency Projects Related to the Repair of Campus Infrastructure Used for Active Transportation and Outdoor Recreation	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 681	An Act Regarding Public Higher Education Funding in the State	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 696	An Act to Bolster the Maine Teacher Residency Program	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 700	An Act to Promote Student Enrollment and Degree Completion in the University of Maine System by Awarding Waivers of Tuition and Fees to Eligible Students	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 1219	An Act to Increase State Funding for the Campuses of the University of Maine System	Died On Adjournment
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Private Schools

Enacted	LD 2109	An Act to Define "Public Education" and Clarify That a Private School Receiving Approval for Public Tuition Must Be Located in the State	PUBLIC 632
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Safe Schools and Student Conduct

Enacted	LD 1097	Resolve, to Require the Department of Education to Convene a Group to Develop Best Practices for De-escalation and Behavior Intervention	RESOLVE 126
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	LD 2172	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education	RESOLVE 151
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Not Enacted	LD 2204	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Develop Guidance for School Leaders to Ensure Supportive Measures for Young Students Involved in Challenging, Disruptive or Unsafe Behaviors	Died On Adjournment
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School Construction, Facilities and Transportation

Not Enacted	LD 1892	An Act Regarding Funding for School Construction	Died On Adjournment
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School District Organization

Enacted	LD 1992	An Act to Create a Process for the Residents of a Municipality to Withdraw from a School Union	PUBLIC 548
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	LD 2050	An Act to Dissolve the Great Salt Bay Community School District	P & S 12
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	LD 2111	An Act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District	P & S 18
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School Support Staff

Not Enacted	LD 1626	An Act to Improve Professional Development for Educational Technicians and School Support Staff	Died On Adjournment
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Special Education

Enacted	LD 1098	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review the Use of Abbreviated School Days	RESOLVE 127
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Summer and After School Educational Programs

Not Enacted	LD 1624	An Act to Provide Funding for Summer School Programming	Died On Adjournment
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Teacher Certification and Professional Development

Enacted	LD 470	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maine Public Schools	RESOLVE 124
	LD 2175	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education	RESOLVE 160

Teachers and Administrators

Enacted	LD 470	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maine Public Schools	RESOLVE 124
	LD 2015	An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies	PUBLIC 626
	LD 2192	An Act Regarding School Employee Investigations	PUBLIC 697
Not Enacted	LD 34	An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers	Died On Adjournment

Workforce Development and Career Options

Enacted	LD 1691	An Act to Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine by Incentivizing Attorneys to Practice in Underserved Areas	PUBLIC 508
Not Enacted	LD 471	Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Expand Intensive English Language Learner Programs	ONTP
	LD 581	An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program	Died On Adjournment
	LD 884	Resolve, to Establish the Criminal Justice Legal Aid Clinic Pilot Project at the University of Maine School of Law	Died On Adjournment

DIGEST OF BILLS
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Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
EDU	34	An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers	Pierce, Teresa	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	46	An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder	Murphy, Kelly	OTP-AM	Emergency Enacted	PL	519	
EDU	78	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Cursive Instruction in Maine Public Schools	Underwood, Joseph	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	109	Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission to Study Federal and National Efforts to Protect Artists from Copyright Infringement by Artificial Intelligence Companies and Users and to Monitor Educational Use	Dodge, Jan	OTP-AM/ONTP	Finally Passed	Resolve	121	
EDU	281	An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State	Baldacci, Joseph	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	295	An Act Regarding Education	Murphy, Kelly	LTW	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EDU	323	An Act to Fund Staff Support for the State Board of Education	Brennan, Michael	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	773	
EDU	324	An Act Regarding Funding for Educational Programs and Opportunities	Brennan, Michael	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	527	
EDU	354	An Act to Improve Education in Maine	Rafferty, Jr., Joseph	LTW	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EDU	361	An Act to Support the Francis Malcolm Science Center	Bernard, Sue	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	370	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Secondary School Mathematics Requirements	Libby, James	OTP-AM	Finally Passed	Resolve	122	
EDU	437	An Act Directing the Department of Education to Develop Pilot Programs to Place Child Care Facilities in Selected School Administrative Units	Golek, Cheryl	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			

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Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
EDU	457	An Act to Fund Climate Resiliency Projects Related to the Repair of Campus Infrastructure Used for Active Transportation and Outdoor Recreation	Carney, Anne	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	470	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maine Public Schools	Rafferty, Jr., Joseph	OTP-AM/ONTP	Finally Passed	Resolve	124	
EDU	471	Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Expand Intensive English Language Learner Programs	Rafferty, Jr., Joseph	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EDU	577	An Act to Maximize Federal Funding and Protect Maine's School Meals Programs	Tipping, Michael	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	581	An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program	Bennett, Richard	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	587	An Act to Require School Boards to Adopt a Policy on Automated External Defibrillator Access at School-sponsored Athletic Events	Rafferty, Jr., Joseph	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	529	
EDU	681	An Act Regarding Public Higher Education Funding in the State	Grohoski, Nicole	ONTP/OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	696	An Act to Bolster the Maine Teacher Residency Program	Pierce, Teresa	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	700	An Act to Promote Student Enrollment and Degree Completion in the University of Maine System by Awarding Waivers of Tuition and Fees to Eligible Students	Tipping, Michael	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	783	An Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center	Tipping, Michael	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	743	
EDU	823	An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Provide for Statewide and Equitable Access to Experiential Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Competition Programs	Haggan, David	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	858	An Act to Ensure Behavioral and Mental Health Services Are Available to Students by Providing Grants to Schools That Contract for Those Services	Gramlich, Lori	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	533	
EDU	884	Resolve, to Establish the Criminal Justice Legal Aid Clinic Pilot Project at the University of Maine School of Law	Ankeles, Dan	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			

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Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
EDU	957	An Act to Integrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History into the Statewide System of Learning Results	Sato, Ellie	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	535	
EDU	973	An Act to Establish the Community Partnerships with Public School Systems Grant Program	Brennan, Michael	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1069	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Personal Finance Course Offerings in Maine Schools and Convene a Working Group of Relevant Stakeholders	Daughtry, Matthea	OTP-AM/ONTP	Finally Passed	Resolve	125	
EDU	1097	Resolve, to Require the Department of Education to Convene a Group to Develop Best Practices for De-escalation and Behavior Intervention	Murphy, Kelly	OTP-AM/ONTP	Finally Passed	Resolve	126	
EDU	1098	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review the Use of Abbreviated School Days	Murphy, Kelly	OTP-AM/ONTP	Finally Passed	Resolve	127	
EDU	1123	An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools	Yusuf, Yusuf	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1202	Resolve, Requiring the Department of Education to Develop Professional Opportunities for Educators in African American Studies	Talbot Ross, Rachel	OTP-AM/ONTP	Finally Passed	Resolve	169	
EDU	1219	An Act to Increase State Funding for the Campuses of the University of Maine System	Tipping, Michael	OTP-AM/OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1282	An Act Regarding Eligibility for Historic Preservation Bond Proceeds	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1474	An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools	Osher, Laurie	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	762	
EDU	1558	Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education	Sargent, Holly	OTP-AM/ONTP	Emergency Finally Passed	Resolve	120	
EDU	1588	An Act to Ensure Transparency in Student Transfer Requests	Bagshaw, Barbara	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1624	An Act to Provide Funding for Summer School Programming	Warren, Sophia	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1626	An Act to Improve Professional Development for Educational Technicians and School Support Staff	Murphy, Kelly	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			

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Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
EDU	1639	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Conduct a Statewide Survey Related to Instructional Time in Public Schools	Grohoski, Nicole	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1691	An Act to Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine by Incentivizing Attorneys to Practice in Underserved Areas	Kuhn, Amy	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	508	
EDU	1705	An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight	Sargent, Holly	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	722	
EDU	1740	An Act to Establish the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Education Matching Grant Program	Sayre, Dan	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1764	An Act to Ensure Equitable Staffing Ratios Across the State for Career and Technical Education Programs in Areas with Smaller Student Populations	Fecteau, Ryan	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1892	An Act Regarding Funding for School Construction	Brennan, Michael	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	1992	An Act to Create a Process for the Residents of a Municipality to Withdraw from a School Union	Rafferty, Jr., Joseph	OTP/ONTP	Enacted	PL	548	
EDU	2003	An Act to Improve Localization of Emergency Broadcast Messaging	Pierce, Teresa	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	725	
EDU	2008	An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics	Grohoski, Nicole	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	726	
EDU	2014	An Act to Update the Funding Method for Career and Technical Education Programs	Murphy, Kelly	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EDU	2015	An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies	Sargent, Holly	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	626	
EDU	2017	An Act to Update Certain Statutes Governing School Nutrition	Murphy, Kelly	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	717	
EDU	2020	An Act to Update Department of Education Reporting Requirements	Murphy, Kelly	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			

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Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
EDU	2034	An Act to Support Funding for Educational Programs and Opportunities	Brennan, Michael	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EDU	2045	An Act to Amend the Education Laws Regarding the State Board of Education's Authority Concerning Degree-granting Institutions	Pierce, Teresa	LTW	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EDU	2046	An Act to Update Certain Duties Regarding Student Health Related to Communicable and Infectious Disease	Rafferty, Jr., Joseph	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	627	
EDU	2050	An Act to Dissolve the Great Salt Bay Community School District	Crafts, Lydia	OTP	Emergency Enacted	P&S	12	
EDU	2052	Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards Related to Its Use	Sargent, Holly	OTP-AM	Emergency Finally Passed	Resolve	149	
EDU	2064	An Act to Expand Access to Early Childhood Nutrition by Establishing a Grant Program for Public Preschools	Daughtry, Matthea	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	2091	An Act to Continue Training Programs for Emergency Medical Services	Lookner, Grayson	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EDU	2098	An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes and Laws	Sargent, Holly	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	630	
EDU	2099	An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary Students Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses	Sargent, Holly	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	631	
EDU	2109	An Act to Define "Public Education" and Clarify That a Private School Receiving Approval for Public Tuition Must Be Located in the State	Brennan, Michael	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	632	
EDU	2111	An Act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District	Stover, Holly	OTP-AM	Enacted	P&S	18	
EDU	2114	An Act Regarding Public Preschool Programs Serving Children Who Are 3 Years of Age	Murphy, Kelly	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	633	

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132ND LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2026

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
EDU	2147	An Act to Provide Funding to Improve the College and Career Readiness of Certain Students in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties	Duson, Jill	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	2172	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education		OTP/OTP-AM	Emergency Finally Passed	Resolve	151	
EDU	2175	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education		OTP-AM/OTP-AM	Finally Passed	Resolve	160	
EDU	2192	An Act Regarding School Employee Investigations	Rotundo, Margaret	OTP-AM	Emergency Enacted	PL	697	
EDU	2204	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Develop Guidance for School Leaders to Ensure Supportive Measures for Young Students Involved in Challenging, Disruptive or Unsafe Behaviors	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
EDU	2226	An Act to Amend the Essential Programs and Services School Funding Formula		OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	737	

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

LD 46 An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder

Public Law 2025, chapter 519 establishes a grant program in the Department of Education to increase postsecondary educational opportunities and support employability for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. Under the grant program, the department awards competitive grants to institutions of higher education in the State to develop and implement program plans that offer students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder, to the greatest extent possible, the same rights, privileges, experiences, benefits and outcomes in a higher education experience as students without disabilities.

Public Law 2025, chapter 519 requires that, in order to receive funding under the grant program, program plans developed by institutions of higher education must meet the requirements of a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 so that students enrolled in the program plan may be eligible for certain federal grants and work-study programs. The law requires institutions of higher education to use 25% of the funds received through the grant program for scholarships for students participating in the program plan. It also requires institutions of higher education that have been awarded grants to make periodic reports to the department concerning the progress and sustainability of their program plans and requires the department to annually report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the grant program.

Public Law 2025, chapter 519 was enacted as an emergency measure in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 519 became law without the Governor's signature and as an emergency measure effective January 11, 2026.

LD 109 Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission to Study Federal and National Efforts to Protect Artists from Copyright Infringement by Artificial Intelligence Companies and Users and to Monitor Educational Use

Resolve 2025, chapter 121 directs the Maine Arts Commission, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to study federal and national efforts to protect artists from copyright infringement by artificial intelligence companies and users and federal and national efforts to monitor the educational use of copyrighted work. The commission is directed to report its findings, including any suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters, which may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. Resolve 2025, chapter 121 provides that the commission may accept grants, private contributions and any additional outside funding for the study.

Resolve 2025, chapter 121 was finally passed in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Resolve 2025, chapter 121 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Resolve 2025, chapter 121 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the commission must report its findings, including any suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2027, and that the committee may report out a bill to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

LD 323 An Act to Fund Support Staff for the State Board of Education

Public Law 2025, chapter 773 provides one-time funds of \$25,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to the State Board of Education to contract for staffing services.

LD 324 An Act Regarding Funding for Educational Programs and Opportunities

Public Law 2025, chapter 527 authorizes the Commissioner of Education to raise and expend private funds to support a fund established for specific educational programs and opportunities.

Public Law 2025, chapter 527 was enacted as an emergency measure in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 527 became law without the Governor's signature and as an emergency measure effective January 11, 2026.

LD 370 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Secondary School Mathematics Requirements

Resolve 2025, chapter 122 directs the Department of Education to collect data on the number of mathematics classes required for a high school diploma in the State, estimated costs associated with raising the minimum number of mathematics classes for certain schools and the number of schools that accept credits from alternative mathematics classes toward the requirements for a high school diploma. The resolve also directs the department to submit a report based on the data collected to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2026. The committee is authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature related to the report.

Resolve 2025, chapter 122 was finally passed in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Resolve 2025, chapter 122 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 122 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the department must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2027, and that the committee is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

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LD 470 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maine Public Schools

Resolve 2025, chapter 124 directs the Department of Education to review teacher mentoring programs in public schools in the State. The review must include, but is not limited to, the number of teachers holding emergency teacher certificates, conditional teacher certificates and new teacher certificates with less than three years of experience employed at each school administrative unit, verification that those teachers are assigned mentors, interviews with principals about mentoring programs and a compilation of descriptions of basic requirements of mentoring programs throughout the State. The department is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters based on the findings of the review no later than February 15, 2026. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report.

Resolve 2025, chapter 124 was finally passed in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Resolve 2025, chapter 124 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 124 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the department must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by February 15, 2027, and that the committee may report out a bill to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

LD 587 An Act to Require School Boards to Adopt a Policy on Automated External Defibrillator Access at School-sponsored Athletic Events

Public Law 2025, chapter 529 requires a school administrative unit to develop and implement a policy that provides access to automated external defibrillators at all school-sponsored events in which students are participating on school property, including team practices. The law also requires that an automated external defibrillator acquired by a school administrative unit must be tested and maintained according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines and that first aid and local emergency medical service providers be notified of the location and type of automated external defibrillator acquired.

Public Law 2025, chapter 529 also requires a school administrative unit to develop and implement an athletic emergency action plan based on recommendations from a nationally recognized heart health organization or nationally recognized athletic training organization that addresses the appropriate, venue-specific use of an automated external defibrillator by school personnel to respond to a cardiac arrest or similar emergency at an athletic event on school property, including a team practice.

Public Law 2025, chapter 529 was finally enacted in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor.

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Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 529 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Public Law 2025, chapter 529 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the requirement for school administrative units to develop and implement a policy regarding access to automated external defibrillators at school-sponsored athletic events begins with the 2027-2028 school year, instead of the 2026-2027 school year as was provided in the originally-enacted law.

LD 783 An Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center

Public Law 2025, chapter 743 provides one-time funds to the Maine Multicultural Center in Bangor for one or more positions to establish a comprehensive program for foreign-trained workers through the Maine Multicultural Center. The position or positions will develop and coordinate the comprehensive program, which must be designed to serve foreign-trained workers with an emphasis on serving foreign-trained professionals and seek private funds to support the center's programs and operations.

LD 858 An Act to Ensure Behavioral and Mental Health Services Are Available to Students by Providing Grants to Schools That Contract for Those Services

Public Law 2025, chapter 533 establishes a grant program within the Department of Education to provide grants to school administrative units that contract for behavioral and mental health services provided by licensed behavioral and mental health service providers. It limits the use of funds provided through the grant program to behavioral and mental health services that are not otherwise covered or reimbursable through the MaineCare program and provides that funds must be used in a manner that does not supplant qualified and available school administrative unit behavioral and mental health staff. The law also provides that the amounts of the grants must be based on a school administrative unit's population and provides ongoing funding for the grants starting in fiscal year 2025-26.

Public Law 2025, chapter 533 was finally enacted in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 533 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 957 An Act to Integrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History into the Statewide System of Learning Results

Public Law 2025, chapter 535 includes instruction on Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history in the Department of Education's required units of instruction on American history and Maine studies. The law requires the department to convene a volunteer advisory committee to collect information and prepare materials for teaching Asian American, Native

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Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and to develop and provide guidance, best practices and exemplar modules to local school administrative units to integrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history into their curriculum.

Public Law 2025, chapter 535 also requires the department to develop a process to enable a local school administrative unit to conduct an internal audit of its curriculum to ensure an equitable representation of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander voices and an accurate historical account of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and culture. The department is required to submit a report on the progress of the implementation of this legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than April 1, 2030.

Public Law 2025, chapter 535 was finally enacted in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 535 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 1069 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Personal Finance Course Offerings in Maine Schools and Convene a Working Group of Relevant Stakeholders

Resolve 2025, chapter 125 directs the Department of Education to survey school administrative units to collect data on the status of personal finance course offerings and integration into social studies curricula and submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2026 based on the results of the survey. The resolve also directs the department to convene a working group to develop recommendations on increasing accessibility to personal finance education for students in the State. The department is required to submit a report based on the findings and recommendations of the working group to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by March 1, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 125 was finally passed in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Resolve 2025, chapter 125 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 125 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the department must submit the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters related to the results of the survey by January 15, 2027 and the report based on the findings and recommendations of the working group by March 1, 2027.

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LD 1097 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Convene a Group to Develop Best Practices for De-escalation and Behavior Intervention

Resolve 2025, chapter 126 directs the Department of Education to convene a group of teachers and experts in de-escalation and behavior intervention to develop best practices for training to be distributed to all school administrative units by September 1, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 126 was finally passed in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Resolve 2025, chapter 126 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 126 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the department must distribute the best practices for training in de-escalation and behavior intervention to all school administrative units by September 1, 2027.

LD 1098 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review the Use of Abbreviated School Days

Resolve 2025, chapter 127 directs the Department of Education to review the use of abbreviated school day rule provisions in schools in the State and requires the department to submit a report on the findings of that review to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The report must include data on the use of abbreviated school day placements, stakeholder input and information on the impacts abbreviated school day placements may have on school funding and student outcomes. The joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Resolve 2025, chapter 127 was finally passed in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Resolve 2025, chapter 127 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 127 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the department must submit the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 31, 2027, and that the joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

LD 1202 Resolve, Resolve, Requiring the Department of Education to Develop Professional Opportunities for Educators in African American Studies

Resolve 2025, chapter 169 requires the Department of Education to develop professional development opportunities for educators in African American studies.

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LD 1474 An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools

Public Law 2025, chapter 762 establishes the position of Wabanaki studies specialist in the Department of Education to assist school administrative units and educators in the exploration of educational materials and resources related to Wabanaki studies and make recommendations to the department regarding Wabanaki curricula. The law also authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules to require a Wabanaki studies component for teacher certification and requires the board to evaluate whether to adopt such rules no later than July 1, 2027, and requires that the department begin study of the Wabanaki studies curricula at least biannually beginning July 1, 2027.

Public Law 2025, chapter 762 also requires Wabanaki studies to be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the Maine learning results.

LD 1558 Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education

Resolve 2025, chapter 120 establishes the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education to review all related laws and rules addressing the State's public policy on higher education and make recommendations for potential legislative changes. The commission is directed to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than November 4, 2026 with findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Resolve 2025, chapter 120 was finally passed as an emergency measure in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Resolve 2025, chapter 120 became law without the Governor's signature and as an emergency measure effective January 11, 2026.

LD 1691 An Act to Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine by Incentivizing Attorneys to Practice in Underserved Areas

Public Law 2025, chapter 508 establishes the Access to Justice Loan Program and Access to Justice Loan Program Revolving Fund under the Finance Authority of Maine for the purpose of awarding loans to and entering into loan repayment agreements with eligible Maine residents. Eligibility is limited to Maine residents who demonstrate an interest in or commitment to providing legal services in an underserved area of the State and who are enrolled or intend to enroll in an accredited law school and demonstrate financial need or have graduated from an accredited law school within the prior five years, are licensed or eligible to be licensed to practice law in the State and have outstanding law school loans. The maximum amount of a loan to or loan repayment agreement with a program participant is \$25,000 per year for a period of up to four years.

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Public Law 2025, chapter 508 also directs the University of Maine System, to the extent sufficient funding is available, to establish at the University of Maine School of Law a rural practice track to support the practice of law in underserved areas in the State. Among other things, the rural practice track must be designed to meet the following requirements.

1. It must provide, in each academic year, a housing stipend sufficient to cover the cost of dormitory housing at the University of Southern Maine for up to six first-year or second-year law school students who reside in underserved areas in the State or who have demonstrated a commitment to and aptitude for practicing law in those areas upon graduation.
2. It must provide, in each semester of the academic year and over the summer, internship, externship or other professional opportunities with organizations and other entities that provide legal services to individuals in underserved areas in the State for up to six second-year or third-year law school students who reside in underserved areas in the State or who have demonstrated a commitment to and aptitude for practicing law in those areas upon graduation.

Public Law 2025, chapter 508 requires that, no later than January 1, 2026, the University of Maine System is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters outlining its plan for implementation of the rural practice track at the University of Maine School of Law, including any recommendations for legislative or other action. After reviewing the report, either committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Public Law 2025, chapter 508 was finally enacted in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 508 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Public Law 2025, chapter 508 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to provide that the University of Maine System must submit the report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and judiciary matters by January 1, 2027, and that either joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

LD 1705 An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight

Public Law 2025, chapter 722 requires the Department of Education to annually assess adult education needs in the State relative to funding appropriated by the Legislature and requires the department to, by December 3, 2026 and annually thereafter, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters detailing its assessment and recommendations. The law also requires the department to submit to the Legislature a detailed written explanation for any funding for adult education that is not disbursed in accordance with the reimbursement procedures described in the laws governing adult education. The department is also required to adopt guidelines for the use of state funds for adult education programs and to

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convene a stakeholder group to provide input on statewide goals for adult education, funding priorities and statewide program improvements.

Public Law 2025, chapter 722 prohibits the department from distributing funding attributable to adult education programs through a school administrative unit starting in fiscal year 2027-28. The department must distribute all funding associated with college transition programs directly to adult education programs through the subsidy outlined in Title 20-A, section 8607-A.

LD 1992 An Act to Create a Process for the Residents of a Municipality to Withdraw from a School Union

Public Law 2025, chapter 548 allows the residents of a participating municipality of a school administrative unit within a school union to petition and vote to withdraw from the school union in the same manner as a single municipality may withdraw from a regional school unit.

LD 2003 An Act to Improve Localization of Emergency Broadcast Messaging

Public Law 2025, chapter 725 requires the State Controller to transfer funds from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund. The law also provides \$600,000 in one-time funds in fiscal year 2026-27 to enable localization of public safety information and emergency alert messaging on the statewide radio network operated by Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation.

LD 2008 An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics

Public Law 2025, chapter 726 provides one-time funds of \$300,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics for infrastructure upgrades to the school's dormitory.

LD 2015 An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies

Public Law 2025, chapter 626 requires the superintendent of a school administrative unit to report to the commissioner of education annually the number and type of the unit's vacant teacher and educational technician positions. The law also provides that activities undertaken by the department using data reported to the commissioner of education related to teacher and educational technician vacancies must be done within existing resources.

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LD 2017 An Act to Update Certain Statutes Governing School Nutrition

Public Law 2025, chapter 717 amends provisions of education law governing applications for free or reduced-price school meals by removing the requirement that the Department of Education contract for the development and implementation of an Internet-based application for such school meals, instead simply permitting the department to take these actions. The law also changes requirements for making the application available on the department’s publicly accessible website and instead permits the department to make the application available on a publicly accessible website. It also removes the requirement that a public school is solely responsible for processing that school's online applications and add as an alternative recipient of the application, another agency making the eligibility determination for free or reduced-price meals.

Public Law 2025, chapter 717 modifies provisions governing alternative breakfast delivery service in schools by removing an exemption applying to certain school administrative units and removing the requirement that the department adopt rules related to the alternative breakfast delivery service, including rules establishing procedures to track health and academic outcomes of students and schools that participate in the service and schools’ annual increase in participation in the service.

LD 2046 An Act to Update Certain Duties Regarding Student Health Related to Communicable and Infectious Disease

Public Law 2025, chapter 627 clarifies the duties of school personnel, superintendents and parents with regard to reporting symptoms of communicable or infectious diseases and adds a requirement that a member of school personnel who has reason to believe that a student is showing symptoms of a communicable or infectious disease must inform a building administrator. The law requires that a building administrator informed by a member of school personnel that a student is showing symptoms of a communicable or infectious disease must consult with the school nurse and inform the superintendent upon recommendation of the school nurse.

Public Law 2025, chapter 627 also clarifies that the duty for school nurses to supervise and coordinate health-related activities must be carried out in accordance with the most recent school nursing practices and follow all applicable rules adopted by the State Board of Nursing. It also requires the guidelines on the provision of school health services and health-related activities to be based on state and national standards and updated at least every three years and updates the term “epinephrine autoinjector” to “epinephrine automated device.”

LD 2050 An Act to Dissolve the Great Salt Bay Community School District

Private and Special Law 2025, chapter 12 dissolves the Great Salt Bay Community School District.

Private and Special Law 2025, chapter 12 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 3, 2026.

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LD 2052 Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards Related to Its Use

Resolve 2025, chapter 149 directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to develop a survey to gather and analyze information from schools in the State regarding the use of technology in the classroom, safety policies and procedures in place and the means employed to ensure compliance with those policies and procedures and to gather information on current guidance about best practices from state and national experts for safe instructional technology use for children. The Institute must share the collected guidance with its steering committee.

Resolve 2025, chapter 149 also directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to submit a report based on its analysis, including recommendations, to the Department of Education and suggested legislation, by December 1, 2026 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs, which is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Resolve 2025, chapter 149 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 3, 2026.

LD 2098 An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes and Laws

Public Law 2025, chapter 630 repeals certain statutes related to correspondence schools and updates application requirements for degree-granting educational institutions in the following ways.

1. It requires a degree-granting educational institution to pay an application fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the Department of Education for processing the application, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, and clarifies that temporary approval to use the name “community college,” “college” or “university” may not be used as a basis for a recommendation by the State Board of Education for permanent degree-granting authority.
2. It allows the state board to recommend an educational institution to the Legislature for degree-granting authority without additional review if the state board has approved or renewed approval for the institution to offer academic programs in the State within five years of the institution’s application for degree-granting authority and the institution has applied for degree-granting authority only for degrees for which the institution offers academic programs approved by the state board.
3. It requires the state board to provide any reports resulting from completed state board reviews of the applicant educational institution to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters upon recommending the institution for degree-granting authority.
4. It amends the College of the Atlantic’s Private and Special Law to broaden the college’s degree-granting authority.

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LD 2099 An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary Students Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses

Public Law 2025, chapter 631 updates certain eligibility and academic requirements for secondary school students receiving a state subsidy for postsecondary courses. The law amends the statutory provision regarding the required recommendation for a student to receive a state subsidy for a postsecondary course to provide that a student must receive a recommendation from the student's school to take a postsecondary course at a public postsecondary institution. It also clarifies that the recommendation may come from a school official with knowledge of the student's academic performance.

Public Law 2025, chapter 631 also requires the Department of Education, in collaboration with the public postsecondary institutions in the State, to provide a report regarding the effect of changes made by this legislation to eligibility requirements for a secondary school student to receive a state subsidy for postsecondary courses and regarding the imposition of lifetime credit caps on secondary school students and career and technical education students in a designated early college career pathway. By February 1, 2028, the department is required to submit a report, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs, which may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

LD 2109 An Act to Define “Public Education” and Clarify That a Private School Receiving Approval for Public Tuition Must Be Located in the State

Public Law 2025, chapter 632 provides that a private school receiving approval for public funds for tuition purposes must be located within the State. It also defines the term “public education” and corrects a reference to the term.

Public Law 2025, chapter 632 provides that a private school approved for tuition purposes pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 5204, subsection 4 that is located outside of the State at which a student from the State is enrolled pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5204, subsection 4 as of the effective date of the legislation may continue to receive the tuition rate for that student calculated pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5806 until the student has completed secondary school, as long as the private school continues to meet all the requirements for approval.

LD 2111 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District

Private and Special Law 2025, chapter 18 clarifies that the board of trustees and district school committee of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District have distinct areas of responsibilities pursuant to the district charter and to statute. The law provides that the board of trustees and the district school committee must create joint bylaws in the event of issues related to overlapping responsibilities.

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Private and Special Law 2025, chapter 18 also directs the board of trustees to prepare the revenues and expenditures for the capital portion of the budget and the district school committee the operating portion. The district school committee is directed to integrate those portions and submit the budget to the budget meeting for the budget validation referendum procedure.

LD 2114 An Act An Act Regarding Public Preschool Programs Serving Children Who Are 3 Years of Age

Public Law 2025, chapter 633 expands the definition of “public preschool program” to include a program that provides instruction to children who are three years of age and provides that, in addition to allowing start-up funds for the operation of public preschools for children who are four years of age, the State, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, may provide start-up funding for the allowable costs to operate public preschool programs for children who are both three years of age and identified as a child with a disability. The law specifies that public preschool students who are three years of age and have not been identified as a child with a disability are not subsidizable pupils for the purposes of state subsidy calculations under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606-B.

Under Public Law 2025, chapter 633, a child who is three years of age on October 15th and does not have an identified disability may still attend a public preschool program that offers instruction to children who are three years of age and have not been identified as a child with a disability. A person who is at least three years of age and is identified as a child with a disability may enroll in an available public preschool program at any time prior to enrolling in kindergarten.

LD 2172 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education

Resolve 2025, chapter 151 authorizes final adoption of portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education.

Resolve 2025, chapter 151 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 3, 2026.

LD 2175 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education

Resolve 2025, chapter 160 authorizes final adoption of portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education, notwithstanding that the filing period for written statements and arguments concerning the proposed rule closed nine days after the public hearing, only if the following changes to the rule are made.

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1. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 1: Teachers and Educational Specialists: General Certificates and Endorsements, the rule must be amended to add a new Section 1.19 establishing a Mathematics Specialist Certificate.
2. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, the rule must be amended to establish grade level specifications of birth to school age five, preschool through grade 8 and grades 6 through 12.
3. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, the rule must be amended to add a transitional pathway to allow holders of an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of kindergarten to earn an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of preschool and elementary grades without the need for additional coursework.
4. In the rule, any existing certificate or endorsement established for grades 7 through 12 must be amended to grades 6 through 12.

LD 2192 An Act Regarding School Employee Investigations

Public Law 2025, chapter 697 does the following.

1. It expands the definition of “covered investigation” of a school employee to include misconduct that is harassment as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 337-A; sexual assault as described in Title 17-A, chapter 11; stalking as described in Title 17-A, section 210-A; sexual exploitation of a minor as described in Title 17-A, chapter 12; or similar behavior that endangers the health, safety or welfare of a student or another school employee. The definition captures misconduct of all school employees and captures misconduct of a school employee against another school employee, as well as misconduct against students.
2. Upon receipt of a complaint of alleged misconduct, it requires a superintendent of a school entity to conduct a covered investigation. It provides that school entities must put anyone who is the subject of a covered investigation on paid leave, must complete covered investigations once they’ve begun, and superintendents must notify the Department of Education immediately of the outcome of a covered investigation.
3. Upon receipt of notification from a school entity of the initiation of a covered investigation of a school employee, it requires the Department of Education to enter a notation on a school employee’s educator credentialing records or other school employee records maintained by the department for that school employee indicating that a covered investigation is pending. The notation must be visible to superintendents and other school administrators authorized to review educator credentialing records and school employee records maintained by the department. Upon receipt from a school entity of the outcome of a covered investigation, the department shall update the notation on the school employee’s file. If the school employee is found to have committed the misconduct, the department must update the notation to reflect

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that finding; if the school employee is found to have not committed the misconduct, the department must remove the notation from the file.

4. It requires that prior to offering employment to an applicant, a school entity must review the applicant's educator credentialing records or other school employee records maintained by the department to determine whether the applicant holds a valid and active certification appropriate for the position or is otherwise eligible for employment and whether any notation regarding a covered investigation has been entered on the applicant's records, and, if so, the current status of that notation.
5. It requires that, notwithstanding any confidentiality clause or any agreement between the school entity and a school employee, if, by a preponderance of the evidence, a school entity determines through its covered investigation that the school employee committed misconduct, the information pertaining to that covered investigation and findings of misconduct must be disclosed to the department and to any school entity that requests that information.

Public Law 2025, chapter 697 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 15, 2026.

LD 2226 An Act to Amend the Essential Programs and Services School Funding Formula

Public Law 2025, chapter 737 amends school funding laws as follows.

1. It updates the method for calculating the regional adjustment beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, to be based on a nationwide cost-of-living index, and provides that the regional adjustment must align with the salary matrix. It also corrects cross-references related to the regional adjustment calculation.
2. It provides that a school administrative unit's ability to pay must be adjusted by 10% for relative income.
3. It provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28 and until fiscal year 2030-31, the State may not reduce the portion of a school administrative unit's state subsidy attributable to the regional adjustment and local contribution calculation and provides a three-year transition period beginning in fiscal year 2030-31.

Public Law 2025, chapter 737 also directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to study the components of the essential programs and services school funding formula and report back to the Legislature by January 15, 2027.

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Summary of Committee Actions

I. BILLS AND PAPERS CONSIDERED	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Comm Activity</u>	<u>% of All Bills/Papers</u>
A. Bills referred to Committee			
<i>Bills referred and reported out</i>	25	86.2%	3.4%
<i><u>Bills carried over from previous session</u></i>	<u>4</u>	<u>13.8%</u>	<u>0.5%</u>
Total Bills referred	29	100.0%	4.0%
B. Bills reported out by law or joint order and not referred back to committee	0	0.0%	0.0%
Total Bills considered by Committee	29	100.0%	4.0%
Orders and Resolutions referred to Committee			
<i>Joint Study Orders referred and reported out</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Joint Resolutions/Orders referred and reported out</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Joint Resolutions/Orders carried over from previous session</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Orders and Resolutions Referred	0	0.0%	0.0%
II. COMMITTEE REPORTS	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of this Committee's Reports</u>	<u>% of All Committee Reports</u>
A. Unanimous committee reports			
<i>Ought to Pass</i>	1	3.4%	0.2%
<i>Ought to Pass as Amended</i>	7	24.1%	1.6%
<i>Leave to Withdraw</i>	3	10.3%	0.7%
<i><u>Ought Not to Pass</u></i>	<u>5</u>	<u>17.2%</u>	<u>1.1%</u>
Total unanimous reports	16	55.2%	3.6%
B. Divided committee reports			
<i>Two-way reports</i>	13	44.8%	2.9%
<i>Three-way reports</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Four-way reports</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total divided reports	13	44.8%	2.9%
Total committee reports	29	100.0%	6.6%
III. CONFIRMATION HEARINGS	18	N/A	N/A
IV. FINAL DISPOSITION	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Comm Bills/Papers</u>	<u>% of All Bills/Papers</u>
A. Bills and Papers enacted or finally passed			
<i>Joint Study Orders</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Public laws</i>	22	75.9%	3.0%
<i>Private and Special Laws</i>	2	6.9%	0.3%
<i>Resolves</i>	11	37.9%	1.5%
<i><u>Constitutional Resolutions</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Enacted or Finally Passed	35 *	120.7%	4.8%
B. Resolves to authorize major substantive rules			
<i>Rules authorized without legislative changes</i>	1	50.0%	11.1%
<i>Rules authorized with legislative changes</i>	1	50.0%	11.1%
<i><u>Rules not authorized by the Legislature</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total number of rules reviewed	2	100.0%	22.2%
C. Bills vetoed or held by Governor			
<i>Vetoed over-ridden</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Vetoed sustained</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Held by the Governor</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total	0	0.0%	0.0%

* Total number of enacted laws includes five bills that were reported out of the EDU Committee during the 131st First Regular or First Special Sessions, carried over on the Special Appropriations Table and then enacted during the Second Regular Session; and 13 bills that were enacted during the First Regular or First Special Sessions, held by the Governor and then became law at the beginning of the Second Regular Session.