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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

◆ 129TH LEGISLATURE DEALS WITH DELUGE OF HIGH-IMPACT BILLS

The first session of the 129th Legislature dealt with a remarkable number of bills affecting public education and the operation of schools, including a campaign to take away the school board’s responsibility to set education policy and negotiate school budgets.

The work to defeat the union-backed bills was done across the state by board members and superintendents. They called and emailed their legislators to explain the local impact of upending labor laws that require decisions about taxpayer-funded public education be made by locally elected board members, whose open meetings give voters voice.

In the end, the bills around education policy and binding arbitration of publicly funded budgets were vetoed by the governor, and a third bill that would have allowed teachers to strike was carried over to next year, with its fate uncertain.

While those bills received much attention, there were actually 265 bills reviewed by the hardworking members of the legislative committees of MSBA and MSSA, who met from January through June. Public testimony was given on behalf of the associations on 174 of those bills, largely in front of the Education Committee, but also in front of Labor, Health and Human Services, Appropriations, Criminal Justice, Judiciary, State and Local, Taxation and Transportation Committees.

The state budget, which usually grabs center-stage, was handled effectively and passed on time, with General Purpose Aid distributed through the formula coming in as anticipated. It includes the governor’s promise to raise teacher starting salaries to \$40,000, but thanks to input from our rural school leaders, that increase will ramp up over three years to protect local taxpayers.

Other bills of note include making the cap of only 10 charter schools in the state permanent unless another Legislature decides differently. There also is now a cap of 1,000 students for each of the state’s two virtual charter schools. A third bill gives the governor appointment authority over four members of the Charter School Commission, and they must be approved by the Senate.

A relatively quiet victory was the passage of a bill supported by MSBA and MSSA to bring the required age of attendance in school to 6, putting Maine in line with many other states and reinforcing the importance of early-childhood education.

School leaders also won restoration of system administration allocations for all school districts, regardless of whether they are in a regional service center, and at the same time supported changes to the service center law that makes it more flexible for those who want to participate. A win-win.

◆ THE FOLLOWING BILLS HAVE BEEN ENACTED

NOTE: Regular bills and resolves passed during the regular session, which adjourned June 20, become effective September 19, 2019. Emergency measures were effective when signed by the Governor, and these dates are noted on the specific bill.

L.D. 1001, PL. Ch. 343—An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021

This is the state budget bill that included the General Purpose Aid to schools reflected in the spreadsheets (ED 279s) sent out to districts in February for the school year starting on July 1.

That GPA is going up by \$28.6 million for 2019-20 and \$52.8 million in 2020-21.

The budget also:

- Creates a three-year ramp to a minimum \$40,000 teacher salary. That ramp will begin in 2020-2021 with a minimum salary of \$35,000 and continue to \$37,500 in 2021-22. The \$40,000 is to be achieved in 2022-23. State funding to support that ramp will begin in 2020-21 with \$2 million in targeted funds for districts under the minimum. The ramp was created in recognition that a significant number of districts in rural parts of the state have multiple steps below \$40,000. The Appropriations Committee adopted a more gradual step-up to mitigate the impact on property taxpayers.
- Includes language for doing a comprehensive and independent study on the current status of Child Development Services (CDS) and the proposed move of CDS services for 3-5-year-olds into public schools. It allocates \$500,000 over the biennium from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to fund the study.
- Includes language and funding to have the state cover the difference between federal reimbursements for reduced-price and free lunches to provide all children under 185 percent of the federal poverty level free lunch at school. Funding was \$669,788 in the first year of the biennium and \$584,483 in the second year. The first-year funding includes \$100,000 to modify existing school meal software to accommodate this change.
- Puts \$18 million into the School Revolving Renovation Fund and allows that fund to be used for renovations to retrofit learning spaces for public pre-school programs.
- Eliminates a \$7 million increase originally proposed in pre-kindergarten funding for startups and expanding programs for 2021-21. Instead the budget requires the Department of Education to develop recommendations and recommended funding levels to encourage more public pre-school programs. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill in the second session of the 129th Legislature to implement those recommendations.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, June 17, 2019

L.D. 19, PL. Ch. 413—An Act To Require Newly Purchased Public School Buses To Be Equipped with School Bus Crossing Arms

This bill requires a school bus of model year 2021 or newer be equipped with a school bus crossing arm. It also defines a crossing arm as a device mounted on the front bumper of a school bus that is no shorter than 70 inches and no longer than the width of the school bus and when activated extends outward in front of the school bus to require students who cross the roadway in front of the school bus to maintain a safe distance from the bus.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, June 20, 2019

L.D. 40, Resolve, Ch. 96—Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study Children’s Mental Health

This resolve establishes the Commission To Study Children’s Mental Health to study the mental health of children in the State and federal and state laws, regulations, rules and policies governing the diagnosis and treatment of children with mental health issues.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, June 26, 2019

L.D. 92, PL. Ch. 27—An Act To Amend Educator Evaluation Requirements

This bill, which was significantly changed in the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, says districts are not required to use Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and standardized test scores in the evaluation process, making it a local decision. It also changes the composition of the local evaluation steering committee to include only teachers picked by the local representative of the union.

L.D. 97, Resolve, Ch. 14—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 38: Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Maine Public Schools, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

This proposed rule was adopted with the following changes:

1. Protocols must be based on the best practices established and maintained by the National Alliance on Mental Illness or a similar organization authorized by the Department of Health and Human Services through its suicide prevention program and the Department of Education;
2. Resources provided must include protocol templates, models and examples of forms, protocols and flow charts that can be adapted as needed by School Administrative Units; and
3. School Administrative Units must certify to the Department of Education that the required protocols are in place.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, April 22, 2019

L.D. 98, Resolve, Ch. 8—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 122: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

The rule changes the weights around criteria used to score applications for grants. It says an applicant or partner who receives a grant in a given fiscal year is not eligible to apply for another grant until one fiscal year after the end of the program, function or service funded by the initial grant, and any subsequent application from that applicant or partner must be for a new program. It clarifies that replication of a project of similar scope or service previously funded by an award from the fund is permissible by a new applicant and partners.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, March 25, 2019

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L.D. 147, PL. Ch. 52—An Act To Extend Internet Availability in Rural Maine

This bill specifies the use of the fund for Internet access includes mobile Internet access through a portable wireless access point, or hotspot, that provides Internet access over a cellular network. It also adds a guideline for allocation of money from the fund to provide, within existing resources, support for qualified libraries in rural areas of the State with greatest need, as determined in consultation with the State Librarian, the Commissioner of Education and the ConnectME Authority, to offer portable wireless access points, or hotspots, for mobile Internet access.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, April 23, 2019

L.D. 150, PL. Ch. 235—An Act To Improve Attendance at Public Elementary Schools

This bill provides that unless a person 5 years of age or older and under 7 years of age (soon to be 6 under L.D. 151) who is enrolled in a public day school withdraws from the school, the person is required to attend the school during the time it is in session. This bill is designed to give school districts some leverage in requiring parents whose students are enrolled in kindergarten to have them attend regularly since truancy laws are tied to required attendance age.

L.D. 151, PL. Ch. 508—An Act To Align State Law with Current Practice Regarding Required School Attendance

This bill changes the age at which children are required to begin attending school from 7 to 6.

L.D. 152, PL. Ch. 61—An Act To Prohibit the Possession and Use of Electronic Smoking Devices on School Grounds

This bill includes in the prohibition against tobacco use in elementary or secondary schools the possession of an electronic smoking device, which is defined as a device used to deliver nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that may be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device, including, without limitation, a device manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic pipe, electronic hookah or so-called vape pen.

L.D. 153, PL. Ch. 158—An Act To Strengthen Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water

This bill requires all schools to test water used for drinking or culinary purposes once rules are established. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish by major substantive rule water lead levels, testing protocols, appropriate abatement and mitigation methods and public notification requirements. It directs the department to provisionally adopt major substantive rules and submit them to the Legislature no later than January 10, 2020. It provides that the department has the authority to issue an order reducing

exposure to lead until the elevated water lead levels are abated or mitigated. It provides that water lead abatement or mitigation efforts will receive Priority 1 status for receipt of funds from the School Revolving Renovation Fund.

L.D. 166, PL. Ch. 318—An Act To Protect Schoolchildren by Providing Additional Enforcement and Prevention Options for Unlawful Passing of a School Bus

This bill allows the State or a municipality to use a traffic surveillance camera mounted on a school bus to prove, enforce or open an investigation into a violation of illegally passing a school bus. It provides that information recorded by the surveillance camera is confidential and may be used for the above purposes and may not be retained for more than 30 days unless it is used to open an investigation. It also allows school buses to be equipped with extended stop arms that when activated extend 3 to 6 feet outward from the left side of a school bus.

L.D. 167, PL. Ch. 54—An Act To Prevent Food Shaming in Maine’s Public Schools

This bill does the following.

1. It requires a public school to provide meals to a student who requests the meal and is otherwise eligible for the meal regardless of the student’s inability to pay for the school meal or failure in the past to pay for school meals.
2. It prohibits a public school from punishing a student in certain ways solely because of the student’s inability to pay for a meal or because of any payments due for previous meals. It also prohibits a public school from refusing a meal to a student as a form of or as part of a disciplinary action.
3. It prohibits a public school from openly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for a meal or who has payments due for previous meals.
4. It requires a public school to communicate about a student’s meal debts directly to the parent or guardian of the student rather than to the student. A public school may ask a student to carry to the student’s parent or guardian a letter regarding a student’s meal debt.
5. Requires DOE to develop guidance relating to the collection of debt.

L.D. 176, PL. Ch. 421—An Act To Enhance Participation on the State Board of Education

This bill eliminates the provision in current law prohibiting teachers and school administrators from serving on the State Board of Education. It also provides that a teacher or school administrator serving on the state board must be granted release time for attendance at state board meetings. Any cost related to the release time, including the costs of a substitute teacher when a teacher is granted release time to serve on the board, is the responsibility of the state board.

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L.D. 179, PL. Ch. 59—An Act To Change the Name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day

This bill changes the Columbus Day holiday in the State to Indigenous Peoples Day.

L.D. 247, PL. Ch. 45—An Act To Increase the Amount of Time School Counselors and Social Workers Spend Providing Students Direct and Indirect Counseling

This bill requires that direct services provided by school counselors and social workers must be within the scope of the duties for those positions established by major substantive rules adopted by the Department of Education. The rules must include guidelines regarding the duties of school counselors, including that a school counselor deliver a comprehensive school counseling program, and guidelines regarding the duties of school social workers. It requires each school counselor and school social worker to spend at least 80% of their time providing direct services to and indirect services on behalf of students.

L.D. 278, PL. Ch. 35—An Act Regarding Pay Equality

This bill prohibits an employer from inquiring about a prospective employee's compensation history until after an offer of employment that includes all terms of compensation has been negotiated and made to the prospective employee. It creates an exception when, for example, such information is related to economic development programs that specifically create employment opportunities for persons with low incomes. An employer that violates this provision is subject to a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 per violation and is also subject to a civil action that may be brought by or on behalf of an affected employee or applicant by the Department of Labor or the affected employee or applicant. The bill also amends the Maine Human Rights Act to provide violation of this law constitutes evidence of employment discrimination.

L.D. 283, Resolve, Ch. 12—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

This resolve essentially adopts the Next Generation Science Standards and updates of Social Studies Standards.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, April 19, 2019

L.D. 285, PL. Ch. 29—An Act To Provide for Legislative Review of Federally Mandated Major Substantive Rules under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act

This bill repeals the provision of law that exempts from legislative review major substantive rules that must be adopted to comply with federal law or to qualify for federal funds.

L.D. 300, PL. Ch. 193—An Act To Provide School Personnel Paid Hourly a Wage Pay Option

This bill requires a school administrative unit to provide school personnel who are paid on an hourly basis with the option of receiving pay over a period of 12 months or shorter.

L.D. 307, PL. Ch. 307—An Act To Limit the Number of Charter Schools in Maine

This bill says no more than 10 public charter schools may operate at any time, regardless of whether they are approved by the Charter Commission or local school boards and collaboratives of local school boards.

Became law without the Governor's signature.

L.D. 309, Resolve, Ch. 70—Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Direct a Study of the Regional Adjustment for School Administrative Units

This resolve directs the Department of Education to direct the Maine Education Policy Research Institute in the institute's review of the essential programs and services to study and report to the department on the regional adjustment for school administrative units. The department must submit the report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2020.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, June 17, 2019

L.D. 345, PL. Ch. 132—An Act To Help New Teachers Succeed

This bill takes the state back to two-year probationary periods for teachers. It affects teachers hired for the 2020-21 school year.

L.D. 369, PL. Ch. 156—An Act Authorizing Earned Employee Leave

This bill, which does not apply to an employee covered by a collective bargaining agreement during the period between January 1, 2021, and the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement, does the following:

1. It requires an employer, except in a seasonal industry, that employs more than 10 employees for more than 120 days in any calendar year to permit each employee to earn paid leave based on the employee's base pay;
2. It specifies that an employee is entitled to earn one hour of paid leave from a single employer for every 40 hours worked, up to 40 hours in one year of employment, with accrual of leave beginning at the start of employment;
3. It requires an employee to work for 120 days before an employer is required to permit use of accrued earned paid leave;

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4. It requires an employer to pay an employee taking earned leave at least the same base rate of pay that employee received immediately prior to taking earned leave and provide the same benefits as those provided under established policies of the employer pertaining to other types of paid leave;

5. It requires an employee, absent an emergency, illness or other sudden necessity for taking earned leave, to give reasonable notice to the employee's supervisor of the employee's intent to use leave;

6. It specifies that an employee taking earned leave maintains any employee benefits accrued before the date on which the leave commenced and the leave may not affect the employee's right to health insurance benefits on the same terms and conditions as applicable to similarly situated employees;

7. It provides the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards the exclusive authority to enforce the law and requires the Department of Labor to adopt routine technical rules to implement and enforce the law;

8. It allows for the imposition of penalties currently established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 53;

9. It preempts the authority of a municipality or other political subdivision to enact any ordinance or other rule purporting to have the force of law under its home rule or other authority regulating earned paid leave;

10. It requires the Department of Labor to adopt routine technical rules to implement and enforce provisions regarding earned paid leave.

L.D. 375, PL. Ch. 53—An Act To Promote the Forest Products Industry in School Construction and Renovation Involving Heating Systems

Under this bill, the State Board of Education is required to ensure that school administrative units have considered heating systems that use renewable, locally sourced wood-based fuels and benefit the State's economy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions in all planning and design for new or substantially renovated schools or school buildings subject to state board approval.

L.D. 388, PL. Ch. 114—An Act To Recognize Employee Background Checks Conducted for Out-of-state Schools Eligible for Maine Tuition Assistance

The bill says for an out-of-state secondary school that serves a student who resides in a school administrative unit that does not maintain a secondary school, the tuition payment may not be withheld solely because persons regularly employed in that school do not meet the exact requirements of Maine's background check statute. Those persons are required to meet background check standards determined by the commissioner to be equivalent to Maine law. It also says any out-of-state secondary school that was included on the list of approved out-of-state secondary schools maintained by the department for the 2017-2018 school year must continue to receive tuition payments under this section for any student who was enrolled

at that school for the 2018-2019 school year. Tuition payments must continue for such a student until that student graduates or terminates enrollment.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, May 16, 2019

L.D. 392, PL. Ch. 425—An Act To Fund Maine's School-based Health Centers

This bill provides ongoing funding for school-based health centers from the Fund for a Healthy Maine within the Department of Health and Human Services. The initiative costs \$600,000 with monies to come from the Fund for a Healthy Maine.

L.D. 406, PL. Ch. 70—An Act To Establish Regional School Leadership Academies

This bill allows School Administrative Units to enter into collaborative agreements to establish regional school leadership academies that combine state and local programs into a coherent system that can significantly improve the recruitment and preparation of prospective candidates for school leadership positions.

L.D. 412, PL. Ch. 213—An Act To Restore System Administration Allocations in Maine School Administrative Units to the Level Prescribed for Fiscal Year 2017-18

Current law requires that beginning in fiscal year 2018-19 a portion of the system administration allocation had to be allocated to school administrative units that established School Management Centers. This bill instead sets the system administration allocation at \$135 per pupil for all districts in 2020-2021.

L.D. 441, PL. Ch. 32—An Act To Reduce Childhood Exposure to Harmful Ultraviolet Radiation by Allowing Students To Use Sunscreen in Schools

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to adopt rules authorizing students to possess and use a topical sunscreen product while on school property or at a school-sponsored event without a note or prescription from a licensed health care professional if the product is regulated by the federal Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use for the purpose of limiting skin damage from ultraviolet radiation.

L.D. 454, PL. Ch. 511—An Act To Encourage the Purchase of Local Produce for Public Schools

This bill provides that the state match for the purchase of produce or minimally processed foods purchased directly from a farmer, farmers' cooperative or local food hub in the State is \$1,000 per school administrative unit in fiscal year 2019-20 and \$1,500 per school administrative unit in fiscal year 2020-21 and subsequent years, or \$2,000 per school administrative unit if funding is received and the school administrative unit sends a food service employee to local foods training administered by the department.

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L.D. 497, PL. Ch. 39—An Act Regarding the Providing of Human Food Waste to Swine Producers

This bill adds language to current statute regulating agriculture and animals that says an individual, organization or institution, including a public school, that donates garbage to a swine producer for use in swine feed is not required to verify the swine producer has a license and is not subject to any penalties for failure to do so.

L.D. 513, PL. Ch. 253—An Act To Limit the Number of Students and Prevent the Addition of Grade Levels at Virtual Public Charter Schools

This bill stipulates the total enrollment at all virtual public charter schools authorized by the commission may not exceed 1,000 students. It also says a virtual charter school may not expand to serve a grade level not included in the school's initial charter contract or, for a school whose charter was renewed prior to November 1, 2019, the renewed charter contract.

Became law without the Governor's signature.

L.D. 541, Resolve, Ch. 45—Resolve, To Reduce Food Waste in Schools

This resolve says the Department of Education shall develop a school food-sharing policy to encourage schools and food banks to work together to collect whole and packaged school cafeteria surplus or leftover food and share it with the community. It also calls on the Department of Education and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to work together to revise the health inspection program guidance titled "Food Sharing Tables - Guidance for Schools" in a manner that is less restrictive than current guidance while meeting the requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. Those revised requirements should be disseminated to public school food service programs throughout the state. Both directives are to be accomplished by January 1, 2020.

L.D. 576, Resolve, Ch. 25—Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Study and Develop an Online Learning Platform for Students and Educators

This resolve directs the Department of Education to establish a working group to study and develop an online platform to facilitate the provision of online, virtual instruction by state-certified teachers to students in every public school in the State and the provision of a variety of high-quality professional development opportunities to educators. The department is required to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 1, 2020, on the progress toward and obstacles to the development, expected costs and a strategy for implementation of the online platform. The committee may report out a bill in the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

L.D. 577, PL. Ch. 428—An Act To Increase Access to Nutritious Foods in Schools by Implementing an After-school Food Program for At-risk Students

This bill requires school districts beginning in 2019-2020 to participate in the federal child and adult care food program to serve at-risk students who attend after-school programming, if the district has at least one public school in which 50% or more of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year. Districts can opt out of the program through a vote of the School Board after notice and a public hearing, if it is determined that operating such a program would be financially or logistically impracticable.

L.D. 651, Resolve, Ch. 29—Resolve, To Facilitate School Access to Federal Title I Funds and Improve the Delivery of Special Education Services

This bill directs the Department of Education to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 1, 2020, on progress on the following, including recommendations and suggested legislation:

1. Enhancement of response to intervention to become an all-encompassing multitiered system of support in all school administrative units and removing the regulations on general education interventions from Chapter 101 covering special education and putting them in Chapter 125, which covers basic approval standards for public schools.
2. Facilitation of the process by which schools apply for schoolwide status with respect to funds under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;
3. Increased use of dual certification programs for general education and special education certifications;
4. Review of the maintenance of effort funding component of the essential programs and services funding formula; and
5. Improvement of regional programs that facilitate MaineCare billing for medically necessary services for schools.

The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature to implement any recommendations in the report.

L.D. 696, PL. Ch. 512—An Act To Require Municipalities and School Districts To Provide Notice of Breaches in Personal Data Security

This bill amends the Notice of Risk to Personal Data Act to add municipalities and school administrative units to the definition of "person" to make the Act applicable to these entities. It also exempts these entities from the civil violations provision of the Notice of Risk to Personal Data Act. The bill specifies that notice to residents of the State of a security breach must be given no later than 30 days after the information broker or person maintaining the data becomes aware of a security breach. The 30 days applies only if there is not a delay due to a law enforcement investigation.

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L.D. 701, PL. Ch. 480—An Act To Modernize the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program

This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$150,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2019-20 for the cost to develop and maintain an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals. It also provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 to eligible school administrative units that start or expand alternative breakfast delivery services that provide breakfast after the start of the school day. A School Administrative Unit with a public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year qualifies for funding.

L.D. 721, PL. Ch. 293—An Act To Encourage Public Participation in School Board Meetings

This bill requires all regular School Board meetings to have a public comment period on their agenda. A survey done by MSMA showed out of 91 boards responding, only 4 had no public comment as a regular agenda item.

L.D. 756, PL. Ch. 344—An Act To Improve the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992

This bill was amended from its original form thanks to bipartisan legislative efforts and the work of the governor's office. It includes reforms that benefit employees, while addressing significant concerns from employers around the original proposal. Many sections of the law will apply only to dates of injury on or after January 1, 2020.

The bill does the following:

- Increases the maximum weekly compensation benefit for workers from 100 percent to 125 percent of the State Average Weekly Wage;
- Gives annual cost-of-living adjustments (up to 5%) on benefits for injured workers who are receiving total incapacity benefits after a five-year waiting period;
- Increases the notice period, giving employees 60 days, up from 30 days, to report an injury;
- Increases the cap for partial incapacity benefits from 520 to 624 weeks (12 years) unless the Workers' Compensation Board determines the case involves "extreme financial hardship due to inability to return to gainful employment," in which case the term may be extended.
- Fringe benefits that do not continue during the disability will be included in the average weekly wage.
- In the event of a death where the employee has no dependents, death benefits must be paid to the employee's parents.

L.D. 773, PL. Ch. 196—An Act Regarding Secondary School Education Concerning Sexual Activity and Sexual Assault

This bill requires health and physical education content

standards to be reviewed in 2019-2020 and to include instruction on affirmative consent, communication and decision making regarding sexual activity and the effects of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics on the ability to give affirmative consent, communicate and make appropriate decisions.

L.D. 798, PL. Ch. 154—An Act To Protect Maine Children and Students from Preventable Diseases by Repealing Certain Exemptions from the Laws Governing Immunization Requirements

This bill removes both religious and philosophical exemptions for immunizations, leaving medical exemptions in place. Change will become effective on September 1, 2021.

L.D. 858, Resolve, Ch. 26—Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Study and Make Recommendations Relating to School Safety and Security

This bill requires the Department of Education to study and make recommendations relating to school safety and security, including, but not limited to, planning to mitigate the potential risks associated with opening school facilities to the public when a school is used as a polling place and the establishment of a Maine School Safety Center. It requires the department to submit a preliminary report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 15, 2019, and a final report by December 15, 2020. The amendment authorizes the joint standing committee to submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

L.D. 898, PL. Ch. 518—An Act To Provide for Support for New Educators

This bill says a school administrative unit may not employ a conditionally certified teacher or educational specialist unless it has a locally designed peer support and mentoring system that must include opportunities for educators to share, learn and improve their practice in collaboration with peers, be formative in nature and be for the sole purpose of ongoing professional growth.

L.D. 930, PL. Ch. 105—An Act To Give Maine Schools Additional Options To Make Up Missed School Days

This bill allows a school administrative unit to develop other ways to make up school days missed due to weather or emergency closures in addition to those currently listed in statute, as long as they are incorporated into a plan approved by the commissioner.

L.D. 944, PL. Ch. 123—An Act To Ban Native American Mascots in All Public Schools

This bill prohibits a public school from having or adopting a name, symbol or image that depicts or refers to a Native American tribe, individual, custom or tradition and that is used as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead or team name of the school.

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L.D. 985, PL. Ch. 202—An Act To Maintain High School Diploma Standards by Repealing Proficiency-based Diploma Standards and Adding the Equivalent in Standards Achievement

This bill deletes the entire Proficiency-based Diploma Standards section in Title 20-A, §4722-A, and adds language in the required subjects section of the law, §4722, that makes clear a student can either do the required number of years in a subject or demonstrate achievement of standards.

L.D. 997, PL. Ch. 481—An Act To Promote Social and Emotional Learning and Development for Young Children

This bill directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services beginning September 1, 2020, to establish and implement an early childhood consultation program. It will enable consultants to work on-site and train early care providers and teachers dealing with infants and children eight years of age and younger in the use of low-cost or no-cost evidence-based strategies that reduce challenging behaviors in children and promote social-emotional growth. The program also will provide guidance to parents about effective ways to address their children's behavioral difficulties and connect children and families to programs and resources. The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report by January 1, 2021, to the Health and Human Services Committee regarding the status of the program, and the committee may submit legislation related to the report to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

L.D. 1010, Resolve, Ch. 31—Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Develop a Model School Disciplinary Policy

This resolve directs the Department of Education to develop a model school disciplinary policy that incorporates policies already in Title 20-A, section 1001, subsection 15-A, including, but not limited to those that focus on positive and restorative interventions designed to strengthen relationships, improve the connection to school and promote a strong sense of accountability. The model policy also must promote interventions designed to close economic, disability-related, gender and racial gaps. The department in developing the policy shall review existing law regarding disciplinary policy and report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on any recommended legislation no later than January 15, 2020. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

L.D. 1024, PL. Ch. 106—An Act To Destigmatize Mental Illness through Health Instruction That Emphasizes the Relationship between Physical and Mental Health in Schools

The bill requires health education instruction in elementary, middle, junior high and high school to include instruction in mental health and the relationship between physical and mental health.

L.D. 1079, PL. Ch. 172—An Act To Authorize Public Schools To Periodically Test for Radon

This bill does not require but allows school administrative units to test for radon. It provides that any testing and new school construction must comply with rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services instead of recommendations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

L.D. 1168, Resolve, Ch. 63—Resolve, To Improve Maine's Response to Childhood Trauma

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Education to convene a task force, inviting the participation of experts and interested parties, to develop guidance for kindergarten to grade 12 administrators on appropriate training and responses to childhood trauma and to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 4, 2019. The committee is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, June 10, 2019

L.D. 1216, PL. Ch. 434—An Act To Support Community Schools

This bill makes the Department of Education's community school pilot project permanent. The department is authorized to designate 5 community schools in the 2020-2021 school year and 10 additional schools biannually beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. The Commissioner of Education is required to apply for available federal funds in support of community school implementation and expansion.

L.D. 1220, PL. Ch. 436—An Act To Remove Certain Restrictions Imposed on Retired State Employees Who Return to Work

This bill amends the provisions of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System regarding compensation and service retirement benefits for retired state employees, retired teachers and retired school administrators who return to service as classroom-based employees or school administrators. It removes the five-year limit on retuning to work and the compensation cap.

L.D. 1237, PL. Ch. 240—An Act To Simplify Municipal Collective Bargaining by Removing the 120-Day Notice Required Prior to Certain Negotiations

This bill repeals the requirement that a bargaining agent for public employees submit a written request for collective bargaining to the public employer of those public employees at least 120 days before the conclusion of the current fiscal operating budget.

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L.D. 1240, PL. Ch. 261—An Act To Provide Career and Technical Training Options for Electricians

This bill says graduates of a secondary school career and technical education electrical program approved under Title 20 -A, §8306-B, are credited with 1,000 hours of work experience in electrical installations and are eligible to sit for the journeyman examination. This amendment specifically provides that the 1,000 hours credited may not be applied to any other pathway to licensure.

L.D. 1306, Resolve, Ch. 44—Resolve, To Examine Issues Relating to Bullying in Schools

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Education to form a stakeholder group to comprehensively examine issues associated with bullying in schools and in particular how Maine’s laws relating to bullying should be improved. The stakeholder group is required to include educators, administrators, students and experts on bullying in schools. By February 1, 2020, the commissioner is required to report on the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group as well as the commissioner’s recommendations for changes to laws relating to bullying to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The committee may report out a bill on the subject of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

L.D. 1338, PL. Ch. 297—An Act To Protect Teachers from Unfair Evaluations

This bill changes “must” to “may” in terms of using ineffective ratings to determine recall and layoff i.e. it is a local decision. Non-renewal as a result of two ineffective ratings can be grieved. Two consecutive ineffective ratings are just cause for non-renewal as long as there is a reasonable basis in fact for the rating and the evaluation process was “reasonably consistent” with the approved system and department rules, and the rating is not a result of bad faith. Teachers would have to prove bad faith on the part of the evaluator, as in current law.

L.D. 1341, PL. Ch. 219—An Act To Provide Flexibility for Efficient and Effective Management of School Management and Leadership Centers

This bill makes some common sense changes intended to encourage more cooperation. They include:

- Allowing center agreements to be approved by the School Board instead of voter approval;
- Simplifying withdrawal by only requiring demonstration to the Commissioner of Education that it is in the best interest of the withdrawing district and remaining members;
- Changing the name from school management and leadership center to regional service center;
- Allowing contract services for leadership as an option to hiring an executive director; and,

- Getting rid of geographic boundaries for centers.

L.D. 1370, PL. Ch. 458—An Act To Address Dangerous Behavior in the Classroom

This bill was immediately amended by the sponsor to exempt students with an IEP – largely because it was clear the proposal could violate special education law. The bill requires that upon receipt of a report of an incident of dangerous behavior, a school administrator and a public school employee chosen by the local union president must review the report. If the report is substantiated, the school administrative unit shall, in consultation with the public school employee who was subjected to the dangerous behavior, develop an individualized response plan to avoid future dangerous behavior. A district may not count time away against an employee’s accrued sick time, if a physician has determined the employee is unable to work as a result of the injury sustained in the dangerous incident.

L.D. 1382, Resolve, Ch. 78—Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Study and Develop a State Plan for Computer Science Instruction and Professional Development

This bill directs the Department of Education to study and develop a plan for implementing computer science instruction in schools and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The Committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

L.D. 1412, PL. Ch. 460—An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Collective Bargaining Rights of Employees of School Management and Leadership Centers

This bill provides that eligible employees of school management and leadership centers may participate in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and the centers are to pay into the retirement system for those eligible employees. The bill also stipulates the centers will have their own bargaining units, and employees will be removed from the bargaining units in the participating districts that formed the centers once the center units are established.

L.D. 1414, PL. Ch. 247—An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Penalties for Violations of the Freedom of Access Act

This bill replaces the existing penalty provision of the Freedom of Access Act to establish a tiered schedule of fines for the civil violation of willfully violating the Act. A state government agency or local government entity is subject to a fine of up to \$500 for a first violation; a fine of up to \$1,000 for a 2nd violation; and a fine of up to \$2,000 for 3rd and subsequent violations committed within 4 years of an adjudication for a willful violation. For the purposes of determining previous adjudications, a willful violation can be committed by any employee of the agency or entity.

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L.D. 1416, PL. Ch. 300—An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Freedom of Access Training for Public Officials

Current law requires public officials elected to certain positions to complete training on the requirements of the Freedom of Access Act. This bill implements the recommendation of the Right To Know Advisory Committee that officials appointed to those same positions also are required to complete the training.

L.D. 1451, PL. Ch. 389—An Act Providing Labor Unions with Reasonable Access to Current and Newly Hired Public Sector Workers

This bill expands the access union representatives have to current members and new employees in the workplace and access to employee information. It gives the union the right to conduct workplace meetings during lunch and other breaks, and before and after the school days. It also gives the union the right to use the district's email system to communicate with bargaining unit members regarding union matters, including elections, meetings and social activities. The union has the right to meet with newly hired employees during the workday, without charge to pay or leave time of the employee, for a minimum of 30 minutes or an amount of time agreed to by all parties.

It also requires the district to give the union information, including confidential information, about new hires and members of the bargaining unit. That information includes home addresses and telephone numbers, personal cell numbers and personal email addresses, if available. After an initial meeting, an employee may opt out of receiving any further communication from a bargaining agent or allowing further access to the employee's contact information, except for communication related to direct representation of that employee by the agent. The bill also says the union has the right to use government facilities or other facilities owned or leased by government entities to conduct meetings, as long as it does not interfere with governmental operations.

L.D. 1478, Resolve, Ch. 101—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

This bill adopts an improved version of certification rules that addresses some concerns raised by our associations, with the understanding that more work is needed overall on certification. Without its passage, a much more onerous version of the rules would go into effect.

L.D. 1549, PL. Ch. 394—An Act To Increase the Supplement for Certain National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certified Teachers in Maine

This increases from \$3,000 to \$5,000 the supplement paid to a teacher who has attained certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is employed in a school in which at least 50% of students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch during the year that the supplement is

provided. It also directs the Department of Education to calculate the full funding for the national board certification salary supplement and the National Board Certification Scholarship Fund and report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 1, 2020. The committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

L.D. 1564, PL. Ch. 278—An Act To Authorize Project Labor Agreements for Public Works Projects

This bill allows a public authority to require a project labor agreement (PLA) for a public works project when that public authority determines it is in the public's interest to require such an agreement. A PLA is essentially an upfront, pre-hire collective bargaining agreement. While the bill is permissive, versus mandatory, School Boards and superintendents opposed it because it is perceived as the first step in taking away local control over local school construction projects and raising the cost of those projects. There also was concern around this bill and others like it that it would preclude or make more difficult the hiring of local subcontractors.

L.D. 1592, PL. Ch. 302—An Act To Allow the Dissolution of Regional School Units Composed of a Single Municipality

This bill clarifies the process for a municipality to withdraw from a regional school unit that is composed of a single municipality and provides that upon withdrawal of the municipality, the regional school unit is dissolved.

L.D. 1593, PL. Ch. 385—An Act To Support Infrastructure Improvements in Schools

This bill amends the definition of "energy services company" to mean a company or 3rd-party financing company that provides design, installation, operation, maintenance and financing of locally funded energy conservation improvements, air quality improvements or combined energy conservation and related air quality improvements at existing School Administrative Unit facilities. It also increases the cap on the total contract cost, for which an agreement is deemed to be a professional service, which is not subject to competitive bidding requirements, from \$2,500,000 to \$10,000,000.

Became law without the Governor's signature.

L.D. 1601, PL. Ch. 303—An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Educators for Maine Program

This bill amends the laws governing the Educators for Maine Program by expanding certain definitions to include home-schooled students and educator service at publicly supported secondary schools and special education facilities; adding service in underserved geographic areas as an eligibility criterion; adding a loan repayment provision to the program; removing the provision whereby the Governor announces selected recipients annually; authorizing the Finance Authority of Maine to increase maximum loan amounts based on available funding; establishing limits on the duration a recipient may

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benefit under the program; removing the preference for loans to undergraduate students enrolled in a course of study related to underserved subject areas; and increasing from 5 to 10 years the amount of time a recipient has to complete the return service requirement.

L.D. 1638, PL. Ch. 406—An Act To Provide for Gubernatorial Appointments to the Maine Charter School Commission

This bill changes the appointing authority for 4 members of the of the 7-member Maine Charter School Commission from the State Board of Education to the Governor, and requires Senate approval of those members. The practice of having three members come from the State Board will continue.

L.D. 1641, Resolve, Ch. 59—Resolve, To Examine Issues Relating to the School Transportation Workforce

This resolve directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Labor, to comprehensively examine issues associated with the school transportation workforce, including, but not limited to, determining the best strategies for hiring, training and retaining school transportation personnel. The department is required to submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. Each committee is authorized to report out a bill on the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

L.D. 1765, PL. Ch. 372—An Act To Expand and Clarify the Prohibition of Hazing at Elementary Schools, Secondary Schools and Postsecondary Institutions

This bill clarifies the definition of hazing to mean any action or situation, including harassing behavior, that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a school or postsecondary institution in the State. It includes any activity expected of a student as a condition of joining or maintaining membership in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers the student, regardless of the student's willingness to participate in the activity.

L.D. 1773, PL. Ch. 336—An Act To Clarify Bonding Authority for School Management and Leadership Centers

This bill amends the law governing bonding authority of school management and leadership centers. The bill provides the provisions necessary to implement existing statutory authority of school management and leadership centers to issue bonds for school construction. These provisions are comparable to existing law for school construction bonds issued by School Administrative Units or by career and technical education regions. The bonding provisions include a debt limit of 4% of state-adjusted valuation; a debt limit exclusion for state-subsidized debt; a 25-year maximum bond term; a method for

debt allocation, assessment and collection; and the rights of bondholders to enforce the payment of bonds to facilitate their sale.

L.D. 1785, PL. Ch. 398—An Act To Amend Certain Education Laws

This is essentially a cleanup bill from the Department of Education to get rid of references to statutes that no longer exist; update language that reflects terms used in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); acknowledge the Department of Education's role in assessing school construction projects; clarify language around interstate districts that involve Maine and New Hampshire; clarify schooling options for students living in the Unorganized Territory; and, change the annual reporting deadline for charter schools from 90 to 150 days after the end of the school year.

L.D. 1815, PL. Ch. 500—An Act To Provide Funds to the University of Maine System to Continue the Statewide Online Advanced Placement Course Program

This bill transfers the administration of the statewide online advanced placement course program from the Department of Education in partnership with the University of Maine at Fort Kent to solely the University of Maine System. The DOE had eliminated the program in its budget.

EMERGENCY – Signed by the Governor, June 28, 2019

L.D. 1820, PL. Ch. 403—An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Investigations by School Entities into Holders of Credentials

This bill addresses concerns raised about hastily passed legislation in a previous session that left the field unclear about procedure. The bill does the following:

1. It clarifies that “covered investigation” means an investigation by a school entity into the conduct of a holder of a credential that a school entity has a reasonable expectation would affect the credential holder's employment or contracted service. That is because the alleged conduct involves alcohol, illegal drugs, physical abuse, emotional abuse, inappropriate contact between a credential holder and a student, stalking or similar behavior that endangers the health, safety or welfare of a student. It removes the phrase “violating boundaries” from the definition.

2. It provides that a credential holder who is the subject of a final report produced in support of a school entity's decision to discipline, suspend or terminate the credential holder may submit to the Department of Education a written rebuttal to the report, and the written rebuttal must be placed in the department's investigative file.

3. It requires the department to destroy copies of all records and reports related to a finding resulting in discipline, suspension or termination of a credential holder if the finding resulting in that discipline, suspension or termination is reversed upon appeal at the school entity level.

4. It directs the department to convene a work group to study and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than February 1, 2020, on recommendations and suggested legislation to improve the law regarding investigations into credential holders.

◆ HELD BY THE GOVERNOR AND TO BE CONSIDERED IN JANUARY

THESE BILLS HAVE NOT BEEN SIGNED, OR VETOED, OR BECOME LAW WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE. ACCORDING TO THE MAINE CONSTITUTION, SINCE THE LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED, THE GOVERNOR WILL HAVE 3 DAYS TO ACT AFTER THE NEXT MEETING OF THE 129TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH IS NOT ANTICIPATED UNTIL JANUARY OF 2020.

L.D. 1036—Resolve, Establishing a Task Force To Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System and Increased Crosswalks for Academic Credit between Secondary Schools and Career and Technical Education Programs

L.D. 1104—An Act To Clarify the State's Commitments Concerning Certain Public Service Retirement Benefits

L.D. 1342—An Act To Establish the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute

L.D. 1700—Resolve, Regarding African-American Student Data Analyses

◆ SECOND SESSION CARRY OVER BILLS

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF VERY IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION THAT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OVER TO THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION AS NOTED BELOW.

Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

L.D. 136—An Act To Establish a Special Education Circuit Breaker Reimbursement Program

L.D. 178—An Act To Increase the State Share of the Cost of Health Insurance for Retired Teachers

L.D. 427—An Act To Require the State To Fund Teacher Retirement

L.D. 470—An Act To Provide Traffic Safety Education in Schools

L.D. 502—An Act To Establish the Summer Success Program Fund

L.D. 512—Resolve, To Create the Task Force To Study and Plan for the Implementation of Maine's Early Childhood Special Education Services

L.D. 662—An Act To Count Study Abroad toward Secondary School Credit

L.D. 712—An Act To Fully Fund After-school and Preschool Programs in the School Funding Formula, Increase the Economically Disadvantaged Student Factor in the School Funding Formula and Increase the School Construction Debt Service Limit

L.D. 791—An Act To Provide School Districts with Full State Funding for Students with High-cost Special Education Needs

L.D. 882—Resolve, To Require the Examination of the System of Learning Results

L.D. 1043—An Act To Establish Universal Public Preschool Programs

L.D. 1050—An Act To Require Education about the Holocaust

L.D. 1376—An Act To Direct the Department of Education To Amend Its Rules To Ensure That Physical Restraint and Seclusion Policies Are Followed for Special Education Students and Make Biennial Reports on the Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion

L.D. 1521—An Act To Expand Skill Development Opportunities for Maine Youth

L.D. 1584—An Act To Attract, Build and Retain an Early Childhood Education Workforce through Increased Training, Education and Career Pathways

L.D. 1606—An Act To Increase Funding for Career and Technical Education Programs

L.D. 1607—An Act To Create the Department of Early Care and Learning

L.D. 1715—An Act To Reorganize the Provision of Services for Children with Disabilities from Birth to 5 Years of Age

L.D. 1760—An Act To Support Children's Healthy Development and School Readiness

L.D. 1813—Resolve, To Ensure Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments

Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

L.D. 148—An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund and To Give Priority Status to Certain School Facility Upgrades

L.D. 149—An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Student Debt Forgiveness To Support Workforce Attraction and Retention

L.D. 295—An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Increase Rural Maine's Access to Broadband Internet Service

L.D. 299—An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Assist Schools, Municipalities and Counties in Using Emerging Technologies and Energy Alternatives to Fossil Fuels in Heating, Electrical and Other Utility Systems

L.D. 354—An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Encourage the Provision of Reliable High-speed Internet in Rural Underserved Areas of Maine

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L.D. 359—An Act To Address Student Hunger with a "Breakfast after the Bell" Program

L.D. 469—An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Funding for Upgrades of Learning Spaces and Other Projects Funded by the School Revolving Renovation Fund

L.D. 859—An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Equipment for Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions

L.D. 969—An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019

L.D. 1119—An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Municipalities and School Administrative Units

Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee

L.D. 173—An Act To Promote Economic Development and Critical Communications for Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investment in High-speed Internet

L.D. 1563—An Act To Encourage the Development of Broadband Coverage in Rural Maine

Health and Human Services Committee

L.D. 836—An Act To Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

L.D. 594—An Act To Promote Individual Savings Accounts through a Public-Private Partnership

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee

L.D. 647—An Act To Attract, Educate and Retain New State Residents To Strengthen the Workforce

Judiciary Committee

L.D. 639—An Act To Protect Student Privacy

L.D. 1575—An Act To Improve the Freedom of Access Laws of Maine

Labor Committee

L.D. 900—An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Employees under the Maine Labor Laws

L.D. 1250—An Act To Prohibit Sexual Harassment as a Subject Matter of Mandatory Arbitration in Employment Contracts

L.D. 1410—An Act To Create Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits

L.D. 1529—An Act Concerning Nondisclosure Agreements in Employment

L.D. 1537—An Act To Increase the Portion of Retirement Benefits to Which the Cost-of-living Adjustment Applies

L.D. 1639—An Act To Require Comprehensive Responsible Contracting Practices for Public Construction Projects

Taxation Committee

L.D. 162—An Act To Eliminate the State Income Tax on Maine Public Employees Retirement System Pensions

L.D. 660—An Act To Exempt Sales to Parent-Teacher Organizations from the Sales Tax

L.D. 732—An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Exemption for Nonprofit Career and Technical Student Organizations

L.D. 1254—An Act To Authorize a Local Option Sales Tax on Meals and Lodging and Provide Funding To Treat Opioid Use Disorder

Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

L.D. 1444—An Act To Make the Distance to Schools for Marijuana Establishments Consistent with the Liquor Laws

◆ **LEGISLATIVE BILLS IMPACTING K-12 EDUCATION THAT DID NOT PASS DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 129TH MAINE LEGISLATURE**

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE VOTED OUGHT NOT TO PASS (ONTP) IN COMMITTEE OR WERE DEFEATED ON THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ARE "DEAD" FOR THIS SESSION.

L.D. 14—An Act To Improve Science and Engineering Education for Maine's Students

L.D. 29—Resolve, To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force To Address the Opioid Crisis in the State by Establishing a Work Group To Develop Educational Programming for Prevention of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders among Youth and Adolescents

L.D. 55—An Act To Return the Normal Cost of Teacher Retirement to the State

L.D. 63—An Act To Improve Responsiveness of Elected School Boards to the Public

L.D. 65—An Act To Allow Municipalities To Impose a Seasonal or Year-round Local Option Sales Tax

L.D. 69—An Act To Provide Economic Security to Maine Families through the Creation of a Paid Family Medical Leave System

L.D. 94—An Act To Prohibit the Dissemination of Obscene Material by Public Schools

L.D. 122—An Act To Prohibit an Employer from Asking a Prospective Hire about the Person's Compensation History until after a Job Offer Is Made

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- L.D. 137—An Act To Make the Maine Learning Technology Initiative More Cost-effective
- L.D. 160—An Act To Add Instruction in Personal Finance to the Statewide System of Learning Results
- L.D. 161—An Act To Increase Access to Career and Technical Education
- L.D. 183—An Act To Increase the Number of Teachers in Maine
- L.D. 185—An Act To Provide a Method for a Student To Be Excused from Standardized Testing
- L.D. 210—An Act To Increase Technology and Engineering Education for Grades 7 to 12
- L.D. 224—An Act To Fund the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund
- L.D. 225—An Act Regarding Transportation Management Software and School Bus Replacement
- L.D. 226—An Act To Require the Use of Preapproved Subcontractors for Publicly Funded Construction Projects
- L.D. 236—An Act Regarding the Use of Unanticipated State Aid for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education
- L.D. 237—An Act To Appropriate Funds for Coaching Services for Existing and New Prekindergarten Programs
- L.D. 240—An Act To Allow Public Employers of Teachers to Negotiate Regarding Educational Policies
- L.D. 259—An Act To Require the State To Meet the Mandatory 55 Percent Contribution to Schools
- L.D. 276—An Act To Provide Equity in the State Income Tax Deduction for Maine Public Employees Retirement System Pensions
- L.D. 296—An Act Regarding Student Privacy with Respect to Video Recordings
- L.D. 318—An Act To Prepare All Students for Work and Life by Requiring That Students Receive Instruction in Vocational Preparation and Practical Life Skills
- L.D. 344—An Act To Increase the Penalties for Illegally Passing a School Bus
- L.D. 358—An Act To Fully Fund Career and Technical Education for Fiscal Year 2018-19
- L.D. 385—An Act To Base School Funding on the Number of Students Sent by a Town to a Regional School Unit
- L.D. 387—An Act To Require Cursive Handwriting Instruction in Grade 3 to Grade 5
- L.D. 395—An Act To Protect Access to Outside-of-school Enrichment Opportunities
- L.D. 404—An Act To Fund the School Revolving Renovation Fund
- L.D. 405—An Act To Increase the Statewide Minimum Salary for Teachers
- L.D. 419—An Act To Require a Minimum Salary of \$50,000 for Public School Teachers
- L.D. 438—An Act To Allow the Creation of New Innovative School Models by Removing the Cap on the Number of Authorized Charter Schools
- L.D. 462—An Act To Provide Paid Family Leave to Public School Employees
- L.D. 464—An Act To Change the Period To Request a Due Process Hearing for Costs Related to a Unilateral Private School Placement from a Public School
- L.D. 468—An Act To Require That the State Fund on an Ongoing Basis a Minimum of 50 Percent of the Costs Associated with Public Preschool Programs
- L.D. 484—Resolve, To Establish a Maine State High School Diploma
- L.D. 504—An Act To Enhance the Development of Innovative Career and Technical Education Programs
- L.D. 549—An Act To Promote Academic Achievement through Hunger Relief for Maine Children
- L.D. 557—An Act To Create and Fund the School Revolving Maintenance Fund To Support the Usefulness and Longevity of Public School Buildings
- L.D. 587—An Act To Require Career Options Education for High School Students
- L.D. 589—Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education To Adopt Rules Prohibiting Teachers in Public Schools from Engaging in Political, Ideological or Religious Advocacy in the Classroom
- L.D. 600—An Act To Achieve Mental Health Parity in Workers' Compensation
- L.D. 605—An Act To Improve Antihunger Programs in Maine Schools

- L.D. 621—An Act To Prohibit Extruded Polystyrene Food Service Containers
- L.D. 632—An Act To Promote Free, Appropriate Public Education
- L.D. 654—An Act Regarding Instruction in Civics in Secondary Schools
- L.D. 655—An Act To Allow Municipalities To Send Separate Tax Bills for Municipal and County and School Taxes
- L.D. 656—An Act To Increase the Penalty for Passing a School Bus with Its Red Lights Flashing
- L.D. 664—An Act To Organize Biannual County Meetings for Local School Boards
- L.D. 670—An Act To Increase the Minimum Wage for Large Employers
- L.D. 672—An Act To Allow Local Flexibility in Teacher Assignment To Enhance Student Achievement
- L.D. 711—Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Study and Recommend a Minimum Age for Participation in Tackle Football
- L.D. 714—An Act To Prohibit Public Charter Schools from Expending Funds for Advertising
- L.D. 718—An Act To Increase Funding for Adult Basic Literacy, Workplace Education and College Preparedness
- L.D. 727—An Act Concerning Funding of Alternative Organizational Structures
- L.D. 729—An Act Regarding the Probationary Period for Teachers
- L.D. 736—An Act To Protect Students during Elections Held at Their Schools
- L.D. 750—An Act To Allow Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Instructors To Instruct without State Certification
- L.D. 770—An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools
- L.D. 965—An Act To Restrict Cell Phone Use by Students While in School
- L.D. 979—An Act To Provide Consistent Data Regarding Education Funding
- L.D. 987—An Act To Provide Autonomy for Health Care Providers To Practice Patient-centered Care by Amending the Laws Governing Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements
- L.D. 1029—An Act To Expand Educational Opportunities for Students Attending Public Secondary Schools with Enrollments of 300 or Fewer Students
- L.D. 1035—Resolve, To Streamline the Process by Which Schools Receive Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- L.D. 1041—An Act Regarding Collective Bargaining for Public Employees under the Municipal Public Employees Labor Relations Laws
- L.D. 1046—An Act To Authorize the Department of Education To Provide Flexibility in the Required Credentials for Teachers in Career and Technical Programs
- L.D. 1064—An Act To Address Maine's Firefighter Shortage by Offering Firefighter Training for Credit in High School Career and Technical Education Programs
- L.D. 1110—An Act To Establish a Local Option for Sales Tax
- L.D. 1112—An Act To Provide Employee Vaccination Compensation
- L.D. 1152—An Act To Make the Maine Educational Assessment Optional for Kindergarten to Grade 8
- L.D. 1170—An Act To Raise the Floor of State Education Funding
- L.D. 1174—An Act To Facilitate Remote Learning during School Cancellations
- L.D. 1177—An Act To Improve Public Sector Labor Relations
- L.D. 1182—An Act To Improve School Safety by Requiring Law Enforcement Visits
- L.D. 1183—Resolve, To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation by Members of Public Bodies
- L.D. 1203—An Act To Clarify the Retirement Presumption under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992
- L.D. 1204—An Act To Eliminate the Cap on Weekly Benefits in Workers' Compensation Cases
- L.D. 1205—An Act To Allow Full Retirement Benefits under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992
- L.D. 1227—An Act To Allow Parents To Apply to the Commissioner of Education To Enroll Their Children in a Receiving School Administrative Unit and To Remove Limitations on Which Students May Be So Enrolled

- L.D. 1239—An Act To Mandate Paid Maternity and Parental Leave
- L.D. 1253—An Act To Fairly Compensate for Fatal Accidents under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992
- L.D. 1267—An Act To Allow the Awarding of Graduation Credits by Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions
- L.D. 1296—An Act To Clarify the Scope of Practice of Certain Licensed Professionals Regarding Conversion Therapy
- L.D. 1325—An Act To Allow Workplace Substance Use Testing for Fentanyl, Hydromorphone, Hydrocodone, Oxycodone and Oxymorphone Use at the Employer's Discretion
- L.D. 1331—An Act To Amend the Student Information Privacy Act
- L.D. 1339—An Act To Recalculate Retirement Benefits for Certain State Employees Adversely Affected by Merit Pay Freezes
- L.D. 1343—An Act To Improve Health Education and Physical Education in Schools
- L.D. 1344—An Act To Improve Nutrition in Maine Schools
- L.D. 1347—An Act To Promote High-quality After-school Programs in Public Schools
- L.D. 1351—An Act To Allow for the Recovery and Redistribution of Food in Public Schools
- L.D. 1354—An Act To Eliminate the Penalties for State and Teacher Retirees Who Return to Employment
- L.D. 1369—An Act To Create an Additional Pathway To Certify Industrial Arts Teachers To Foster Career and Technical Subjects in Maine Schools
- L.D. 1425—An Act To Maintain the Integrity of the Department of Education by Prohibiting Its Promotion of Policies and Practices That Are Not Based on Rigorous Peer Review and Analysis, Limiting Acceptance of Private Funding in Implementing and Influencing State Policy and Retaining the Home Rule Powers to School Administrative Units
- L.D. 1428—An Act To Require the State To Fund 50 Percent of Public Preschool Programs
- L.D. 1439—An Act To Ensure Quality, Safety and Accountability on Public Construction Projects
- L.D. 1470—An Act To Allow the Prohibition of Weapons at Public Proceedings and Voting Places
- L.D. 1497—An Act To Recognize High-performing, Efficient School Districts with Regard to the System Administration Allocation
- L.D. 1501—An Act To Change the Law Governing Occupational Disease Claims under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992
- L.D. 1508—An Act To Respect the Will of Maine Voters by Funding Education at 55 Percent
- L.D. 1511—An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions
- L.D. 1618—An Act To Authorize Career and Technical Education Regions To Enter into Energy Conservation Performance Contracts for School Facilities
- L.D. 1623—An Act To Improve Employee Representation under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 by Amending the Laws Governing Attorney's Fees
- L.D. 1624—An Act To Prevent Discrimination under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992
- L.D. 1625—An Act To Eliminate the Durational Cap on Partial Benefits under the Workers' Compensation Laws