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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Carry Over Bills, continued...	2
Studies	2
Enacted Bills	2
Legislative Bills Impacting K-12 Education that Did Not Pass During the First Session of the 125th Maine Legislature.	11
Vetoed Bills	13



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

◆ 125TH LEGISLATURE IMPACTS PUBLIC EDUCATION

The first session of the 125th Legislature passed major pieces of legislation dealing with K-12 education, including a slate of initiatives proposed and supported by Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association.

The initiatives grew out of resolutions passed by the MSBA Delegate Assembly last fall or as a result of discussions by the executive boards and legislative committees of the two associations.

The list includes extending the teacher probationary period to three years; restoring the School Board's right to establish teacher and principal evaluation systems; preventing the mandatory collection of student Social Security numbers for use in the state's longitudinal data system; requiring the insurer of the Maine Education Association Benefits Trust, and all other insurers, to release claims data by district so School Boards can solicit competitive health insurance bids; and, allowing teachers and other eligible school personnel to join the State Employee Health Plan.

The insurance-related bills were designed to open up competition in the \$400-million school health insurance market.

The Legislature also passed a bill that will allow charter schools to be established in Maine – legislation that MSBA and MSSA have opposed over the last decade because of its impact on public school funding.

The next step will be to carefully monitor and weigh in on rules that will be proposed by the Department of Education to implement the charter bill and the makeup of the State Charter Commission, which can authorize up to 10 charters anywhere in the state during an initial 10-year transition period.

The Legislature also passed a sweeping restructuring of the state retirement system, affecting cost of living increases and return to work rules for retirees, and raising the retirement age to 65 for new hires or those with less than 5 years on the job.

In all, the legislative committees of the MSBA and MSSA and staff of Maine School Management Association reviewed and weighed in on nearly 240 bills.

A number of important bills dealing with such things as standards-based graduation requirements, bullying, review of the Essential Programs and Services funding formula and a far-reaching Freedom of Access proposal were carried over until next year.

◆ 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. #98—Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Education To Adopt a Policy Regarding Management of Head Injuries in Youth Sports

L.D. #675—An Act To Establish Multidistrict Online Classes in Maine

L.D. #958—Resolve, To Direct the Department of Education To Review the Essential Programs and Services Model

L.D. #980—An Act To Prohibit Cyberbullying in Public Schools

L.D. #1003—An Act To Assist Maine Schools To Obtain Federal Funds for Medically Necessary Services

L.D. #1237—An Act To Prohibit Bullying in Schools

L.D. #1316—An Act To Expand Magnet Schools in Maine

L.D. #1422—An Act To Prepare Maine People for the Future Economy

L.D. #1503—An Act To Promote School Attendance and Increase School Achievement

Judiciary Committee

L.D. #324—An Act To Authorize Parents with Power of Attorney To Make Decisions Regarding the Education of Their Adult Children

L.D. #978—An Act To Amend the Probate Code Regarding Powers of Attorney, Education of Children and Guardianship

L.D. #1465—An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Freedom of Access

Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

L.D. #381—An Act To Establish a New Method of Determining the State Budget

L.D. #513—RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To More Equitably Fund the Liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

L.D. #1386—An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund the Challenger Learning Center of Maine

Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee

L.D. #309—An Act To Make Voluntary Membership in a Public Employee Labor Organization in the State

L.D. #765—An Act To Address the Documented Educational and Rehabilitation Needs of Persons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

Transportation Committee

L.D. #1124—An Act To Authorize the Use of Traffic Surveillance Cameras To Prove and Enforce Violations of Overtaking and Passing School Buses

HELD BY GOVERNOR

L.D. #1264—An Act To Improve the Energy Efficiency of Public Buildings and Create Jobs

◆ STUDIES

[NOTE: REGULAR BILLS AND RESOLVES PASSED DURING THIS SESSION BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2011. EMERGENCY MEASURES WERE EFFECTIVE WHEN SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND THESE DATES ARE NOTED ON THE SPECIFIC BILL.]

L.D. #1043, Part U, Design of New Retirement Benefit Plan for State Employees and Teachers; Working Group Established.
EMERGENCY – Signed June 20, 2011

Language in the biennial budget, L.D. #1043, creates a working group to develop an implementation plan designed to close the current defined benefit plan for all state employees and teachers and replace it with a retirement benefit plan that is supplemental to Social Security. It would apply to those who are first hired after June 30, 2015, with no prior creditable service.

The working group will be staffed within the existing resources of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

The working group includes:

- Executive director of the MainePERS, who will serve as chair
- Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, or a designee
- Member nominated by the Maine Education Association
- Member nominated by the Maine School Management Association
- Member nominated by the Maine State Employees Association

The working group shall submit a report on the design of the plan along with any necessary implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by Jan. 1, 2012. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

◆ THE FOLLOWING BILLS HAVE BEEN ENACTED

[NOTE: REGULAR BILLS AND RESOLVES PASSED DURING THIS SESSION BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2011. EMERGENCY MEASURES WERE EFFECTIVE WHEN SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND THESE DATES ARE NOTED ON THE SPECIFIC BILL.]

L.D. #12, Resolve Ch. 6—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 131: The Maine Federal, State and Local Accountability Standards, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

This resolve allowed the Legislature to review and approve the adoption of the so-called Common Core standards as part of Chapter 131: The Maine Federal, State and Local Accountability Standards, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education.

EMERGENCY – Signed March 25, 2011

L.D. #45, PL. Ch. 19—An Act To Allow Marriage and Family Therapists To Serve as Mental Health Professionals in Public Schools

This bill allows school administrative units to employ or contract with qualified licensed individuals to provide related ser-

VICES required to assist children with disabilities. It also directs the Commissioner of Education to amend the Department of Education rules in Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty to clarify that a person licensed as a marriage and family therapist is qualified to serve as a qualified evaluator and a qualified licensed contractor.

L.D. #50, PL. Ch. 13—An Act To Allow Provisional Drivers To Transport Persons under Guardianship and Children of Active Military Personnel

Current law prohibits a person under 18 years of age who has been issued a driver's license from carrying passengers other than immediate family members, which includes foreign exchange students, for 6 months after being issued a license unless accompanied by an older driver. This bill allows a young driver to carry a passenger who is a person under court-appointed guardianship of an immediate family member. It also allows a young driver to carry a child whose parent is deployed for military service, specifying that the child must be under guardianship of an immediate family member as provided on an Armed Forces Family Care Plan form.

L.D. #77, Resolve Ch. 17—Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Create a Resource Guide to Maine History Developed in Cooperation with Franco-American Specialists

This resolve directs the Department of Education to create a resource guide to Maine history in cooperation with Franco-American specialists. The department shall periodically update the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs of the 125th Legislature on the number of hours dedicated by the department to the creation of the resource guide and supply the committee with a copy of the final resource guide.

L.D. #100, PL. Ch. 1—An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011

This bill is the supplemental budget that made changes in the budget for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2011. Portions that affect K-12 education include a transfer of \$5.7 million out of the state agency clients line in the General Purpose Aid account to CDS to cover a budget shortfall. According to the Department of Education, money has been taken in years past from the state agency line for CDS, and this makes the transfer official. The supplemental budget also has language that lowered the debt limit for major capital school construction projects from \$126 million to \$116 million for 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

EMERGENCY – Signed February 8, 2011

L.D. #106, Resolve Ch. 39—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

This resolve allowed for legislative review and approval of portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education. The rules define such things as adverse effect, educational performance and abbreviated school day, which had not been defined in rule before. The definitions will help give school districts clarity when identifying certain disabilities and outline a process to review abbreviated school days to determine if they are still appropriate for the student.

EMERGENCY – Signed May 19, 2011

L.D. #114, PL. Ch. 25—An Act To Allow Vietnam War Era Veterans To Receive High School Diplomas

This bill allows those veterans who left secondary school to serve in the Armed Services during the Vietnam War era to be awarded a high school diploma.

L.D. #129, PL. Ch. 49—An Act To Eliminate Dual Certification Requirements for Speech-language Pathologists

This amendment provides that a person holding a valid license as a speech-language pathologist by the Board of Speech Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dealing and Fitting is not required to receive certification from the Department of Education in order to be employed by a public school or an approved private school. It also directs the State Board of Education to revise its rules accordingly and designates these rules as routine technical rules.

L.D. #139, PL. Ch. 328—An Act To Reduce the Time Period after Which a Member Municipality May Petition To Withdraw from a Regional School Unit

This bill reduces the time period from 3 years to 30 months after which a member municipality may petition to withdraw from a regional school unit. It becomes effective January 1, 2012.

L.D. #184, PL. Ch. 154—An Act To Promote the Financial Literacy of High School Students

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop a program that promotes an integrated model for instruction in personal finance to help secondary school students attain financial literacy. It requires the commissioner to submit an annual report on strategies and available resources to school boards and superintendents, as well as to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, and to post that report on the

Department of Education's website.

L.D. #375, Resolve Ch. 45—Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation To Convene a Working Group To Review the Laws and Rules Governing Boilers

This bill directs the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to convene a working group with the Board of Boilers and Pressure Vessels as well as other interested parties to review the current lack of uniformity in the laws and rules governing boilers and to consider options for expanding inspections of boilers located in public places.

EMERGENCY – Signed May 23, 2011

L.D. #385, PL. Ch. 251—An Act To Amend the School Administrative Unit Consolidation Laws

This bill amends the laws governing school administrative unit reorganization to eliminate the penalties set forth for non-conforming school administrative units. The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2012.

EMERGENCY – Signed June 8, 2011

L.D. #391, PL. Ch. 36—An Act Concerning Models for Teacher and Principal Evaluations

This bill allows school administrative units to develop and adopt their own teacher and principal evaluation systems using student achievement data. It reverses a bill passed in 2010 that took that policy-making authority out of the hands of local School Boards and essentially gave a stakeholder group in Augusta veto power over evaluation systems. This bill makes the stakeholder group an advisory board that will review evaluation models proposed by the Department of Education. MSMA secured sponsorship.

L.D. #397, PL. Ch. 352—An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Competitive Bidding for School Construction and Repair

The bill changes the minimum amount of the cost of school construction, major alteration or repair requiring a competitive bid from over \$100,000 to over \$250,000. It requires that when a contract includes ongoing service and maintenance, the cost of service and repair must be included when calculating the total cost of the project to determine if competitive bidding is required. It also requires a school administrative unit to use a competitive bid process if 2 or more contracts totaling more than \$250,000 are to be entered into within a 6 month period.

L.D. #403, Resolve Ch. 94—Resolve, To Encourage School Administrative Units To Adopt a Mission Statement for Each of the Public Schools Operated by the School Administrative Unit

This resolve encourages each school administrative unit to

adopt a mission statement for every school under its jurisdiction. In developing and adopting a mission statement, school boards are encouraged to solicit input from teachers, administrators, parents, students and community members. The bill directs the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school administrative units and to review the adoption of mission statements by school administrative units and submit a written report with recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by September 1, 2014.

L.D. #404, PL. Ch. 249—An Act To Assist School Administrative Units in Providing Health Insurance to Their Employees

This bill requires the administrator of an individual school health plan or a group plan covering a multiple-school group to seek competitive bids at least once every 5 years and make the competitive bids available to individual school administrative units upon request. It requires the Maine Education Association Benefits Trust to review the current benefits option and consider creating a new benefits option with a lower premium rate for the 2012 plan year or a subsequent plan year. It also requires the Maine Education Association Benefits Trust to include a representative appointed by the Maine School Boards Association to serve as a member of the board of trustees of the trust no later than January 1, 2012. MSBA secured sponsorship on the original bill that was subsequently amended.

L.D. #505, PL. Ch. 224—An Act To Align State Standards Pertaining to Food and Beverages Outside of the School Lunch Program to Federal Standards

This bill amends the law to allow the Department of Education to adopt rules that are consistent with federal school nutrition standards regarding standards for food and beverages sold or distributed on school grounds but outside of school meal programs.

The bill exempts culinary arts programs provided by career and technical schools from the requirements of the rules.

L.D. #506, PL. Ch. 223—An Act To Prevent the Disclosure of Student Social Security Numbers

This bill repeals the provisions authorizing the Commissioner of Education to require local school units to request and report student Social Security numbers to the Department of Education. The numbers were going to be used to track students in the department's Longitudinal Data System. MSBA secured sponsorship.

L.D. #516, PL. Ch. 174—An Act To Amend Maine Law Regarding Employment Practices for Certain Minors

This bill extends the hours a student may work when school is in session. It extends the hours of work permitted per week from 20 to 24 and it extends the hours of work permitted per

day from 4 to 6. The bill also changes the time to which a student may work on a day preceding a scheduled school day from 10 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

L.D. #530, P&S Ch. 17—An Act To Allow Alternative Delivery Methods for Locally Funded School Construction Projects

This bill allows a school administrative unit to undertake a school construction project using the construction-manager-advisor method, the design-build method or the construction-manager-at-risk method for school construction projects that are locally funded and have a minimum total project cost of \$1,000,000.

L.D. #554, PL. Ch. 54—An Act To Amend the Telecommunications Education Access Fund

This bill removes from the law governing the telecommunications education access fund a provision that requires that at least 25% of the annual budget of the fund be devoted to targeted innovative projects.

L.D. #564, PL. Ch. 232—An Act Regarding Retention and Graduation Rates for Maine's Colleges and Universities

This bill requires the Department of Education to compile graduation and retention rates for all postsecondary institutions in the state using information provided by those institutions. The bill also requires the department to annually report those rates, along with national comparisons, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

L.D. #569, PL. Ch. 354—An Act To Support and Encourage the Use of Online Textbooks

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to develop a program of technical assistance, including professional development and training for instruction in digital literacy and the establishment of a clearinghouse for information on the use of online learning resources that may be made available to all schools. The bill also establishes the Digital Literacy Fund, to be administered by the Department of Education, and authorizes the Commissioner of Education to expend funds allocated to the learning through technology program for the costs of providing the program technical assistance.

L.D. #619, PL. Ch. 438—An Act To Allow School Administrative Units and Educational Advisory Organizations To Participate in the State's Group Health Plan

This bill provides that employees of school administrative units and educational advisory organizations are eligible to participate in the group health plan that is available to state employees and other eligible persons. It also removes from statute a

prohibition that says members of the Maine Education Association are not eligible to participate in the state plan. MSBA secured sponsorship.

L.D. #656, Resolve Ch. 102—Resolve, To Establish a Task Force on Franco-Americans

This resolve establishes a task force to study Franco-Americans in the State. The task force is directed to determine a definition of who is a Franco-American and gather basic data about Franco-Americans, including how many reside in the State, the percentage of the State's population that is Franco-American, if they speak French, their educational achievement, their annual income and where they live. It directs the task force to give its final report by Nov. 7, 2012, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to introduce a bill to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

EMERGENCY – Signed July 6, 2011

L.D. #688, Resolve Ch. 63—Resolve, To Facilitate Participation in Individualized Education Program Team Meetings and Special Education Dispute Resolution Procedures

This resolve directs the Department of Education to amend its rules in Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty to require that schools permit the use of alternative means of meeting participation, such as individual or conference telephone calls and videoconferencing, to ensure that the parents of a child with a disability are able to have appropriate persons participate in Individualized Education Program Team Meetings and special education dispute resolution procedures. The rules must specify that a school administrative unit is not required to spend any funds to purchase additional equipment in order to comply with this provision.

L.D. #715, Resolve Ch. 47—Resolve, To Ensure That Maine Teachers and Paraprofessionals Who Work with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Are Appropriately and Adequately Prepared

This resolve requires the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to convene a work group to conduct a study to ensure that teachers and paraprofessionals who work with children with autism spectrum disorders are appropriately and adequately prepared. The work group is required to submit its recommendations by November 1, 2011. The State Board of Education and the department are required to submit a report, including the findings and recommendations from the work group, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 7, 2011, and the committee is authorized to introduce legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

EMERGENCY – Signed May 23, 2011

L.D. #721, PL. Ch. 276—An Act To Extend the Use of Underground Storage Tanks

The bill provides that an underground oil storage tank for which the manufacturer's warranty has expired does not need to be removed from service and properly abandoned if the tank is tested in accordance with the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 564. It also addresses when a storage tank has to be properly abandoned.

L.D. #744, PL. Ch. 369—An Act To Amend the Definition of "Service Animal" To Conform with Federal Law

This bill changes the definition of "service animal" in the Maine Human Rights Act to conform with federal law. The section of federal law dealing with public accommodations, which covers public schools, defines a service animal as a dog.

L.D. #776, PL. Ch. 279—An Act To Create a Fair Process for Energy Service Companies Contracting with Maine Schools

The bill retains a school administrative unit's authority to use a process other than a competitive bidding process when awarding a contract to an energy services provider if certain requirements are met. Those include establishing performance criteria that must be included in the agreement. The bill also increases the length of an agreement from 15 years to 20 years. It also increases the total contract cost allowed without going to competitive bidding from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000 and excludes private and federal grant funds from counting toward that maximum figure.

L.D. #800, P&S Ch. 9—An Act To Allow the Town of Surry To Join School Union No. 93

This emergency bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education, upon the submission of a written plan of organization that has been approved by the school boards involved in School Union No. 93 and the school board of the Surry School Department, to adjust the grouping of school administrative units in School Union No. 93 to include the Town of Surry.

EMERGENCY – Signed May 31, 2011

L.D. #837, Resolve Ch. 59—Resolve, To Enhance the Use of Integrated Pest Management on School Grounds

This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, Board of Pesticides Control to develop and disseminate best management practices for the establishment and maintenance of school lawns, playgrounds and athletic fields. It directs the board to assess compliance with regulation of pesticides use in schools and on school grounds and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than February 1, 2012. It requires a

follow-up report to the legislative committee of jurisdiction in 2014.

L.D. #860, PL. Ch. 379—An Act To Reduce Student Hunger

This bill says a school administrative unit may participate in the federal summer food service program for children. The Commissioner of Education will assist interested school administrative units in developing a plan to participate in the program and in obtaining federal, state and private funds to pay for the program.

L.D. #903, PL. Ch. 456—An Act To Allow a Student Attending Private School Access to Public School Co-curricular, Interscholastic and Extracurricular Activities

This bill provides that a student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program in a private school is eligible to participate in public school co-curricular, extracurricular and interscholastic activities when the private school is not a member of the Interscholastic Division of the Maine Principals' Association. It also allows the principal of a school to withhold approval of participation. (Note: The original bill allowed this in private schools that enroll fewer than 30 students, but an amendment removed the size restriction.)

L.D. #938, PL. Ch. 353—An Act To Permit Public School Online Learning Programs To Accept Nonresident Tuition Students

This bill permits Maine public school systems that offer online learning programs to allow nonresident students to participate in those programs on a tuition basis when the students, and their parents, reside outside the State. Provisions in the law are repealed July 1, 2014.

EMERGENCY – Signed June 15, 2011

L.D. #949, Resolve Ch. 83—Resolve, To Require the Department of Education To Submit a Plan for the Implementation of Standards-based Education

This bill directs the Department of Education to develop and submit a plan for the implementation of standards-based education, including the awarding of high school diplomas to students who demonstrate proficiency in meeting standards in all 8 content areas of the state's System of Learning Results. The report is due to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 1, 2011. In preparing the report the department shall consult with teachers and administrators with experience in standards-based education, as well as the education associations in the state. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

L.D. #964, Resolve Ch. 42—Resolve, Requiring the Department of Education To Amend Its Rules To Prohibit School Administrative Units from Imposing Unreasonable Restrictions That Impede the Ability of Parents and Evaluators To Observe Students

This resolve directs the Department of Education to amend its rules in Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty to permit a qualified examiner to observe a child at school or at a potential educational placement when the qualified examiner is not employed by the school and is conducting an independent educational evaluation at the request of the parent at times and durations as the school would permit a qualified examiner that is employed by the school.

L.D. #976, PL. Ch. 172—An Act To Require 3 Years of Experience in a School Administrative Unit before a Teacher May Receive a Continuing Contract Offer as amended by L.D. #1480—An Act To Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine

This bill extends the probationary period from two to three years and says a duly certified teacher is not eligible for a continuing contract in the employing school administrative unit until after the 3rd year of the probationary teacher contract. Subsequent contracts must be for not less than 2 years. Maine's current two-year probationary period is one of the lowest in the country, and this law will give teachers more time to develop skills that can only be learned in the classroom and administrators more time to judge a teacher's effectiveness. MSBA and MSSA directors supported a parallel bill.

L.D. #1043, PL. Ch. 380—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, 2012 and June 30, 2013

This is the two-year, \$6.1 billion state budget that went into effect July 1, 2011. Parts that affect K-12 operations include setting General Purpose Aid at \$894 million for 2011-2012 and \$914 million for 2012-2013. That's compared to the current \$932 million in aid schools received this school year that included federal stimulus money, which is going away.

Language in the budget also counts going forward what the state contributes to teacher retirement and health benefits toward its required share of 55 percent of the cost of education. This addition makes the state's share look better than it really is based on the cost of education as defined by the Essential Programs and Services funding formula.

There also were changes to the state retirement plan affecting teachers, superintendents and other certified administrators. Those changes include:

- A cap of 3 percent on cost of living increases, after an initial

three-year freeze. The 3 percent cap would apply only to the first \$20,000 of a retiree's annual pension payment. There would be no COLA on payments beyond the initial \$20,000.

- Raising the retirement age to 65 for new hires or those with less than five years on the job.

- Requiring that teachers and certified administrators who retire before their normal retirement age pay 100 percent of their insurance premiums until they reach retirement age. That age is 62 or 60, depending on a person's date of hire. The change goes into effect on July 1, 2012. (This section of the law does not apply to those receiving disability retirement benefits.)

- Creation of a working group to develop a plan to close the current defined benefit plan for all state employees, teachers, and certified administrators and replace it with a retirement benefit plan, supplemental to Social Security, that applies to those who are first hired after June 30, 2015, with no prior, creditable service.

The budget, as amended by L.D. #1480, also changed return to work rules for teachers and certified administrators who retire at normal retirement age after Sept. 1, 2011. The changes include:

- Retirees may return to work for up to five years.
- Compensation is set at 75 percent of the compensation established for the position by the appointing authority.
- The employee must have a bona fide termination of employment and may not return to service prior to the 30 calendar days after termination.

EMERGENCY – Signed June 20, 2011

L.D. #1082, PL. Ch. 264—An Act Concerning the Protection of Personal Information in Communications with Elected Officials

This bill consists of the recommendations of the majority of the members of the legislative subcommittee of the Right to Know Advisory Committee.

This bill amends the definition of "public record" in the freedom of access laws to provide that certain information in communications between constituents and elected officials is not a public record. Specifically, information is not a public record if the information would be confidential if it were in the possession of another public agency or official or if the information is of a personal nature. Information of a personal nature consists of:

1. An individual's medical information of any kind, including information pertaining to diagnosis or treatment of mental or emotional disorders;
2. Credit or financial information;
3. Information pertaining to the personal history, general character or conduct of the constituent or any member of the constituent's immediate family;
4. Complaints, charges of misconduct, replies to complaints or charges of misconduct or memoranda or other materials pertaining to disciplinary action; or
5. An individual's Social Security number.

The bill also directs the Right To Know Advisory Committee to examine the benefit of public disclosure of elected officials' emails and other records balanced with the availability of technology and other systems necessary to maintain the records and to provide public access. The Right To Know Advisory Committee's findings and recommendations must be included in its 2012 annual report.

L.D. #1094, PL. Ch. 386—An Act To Improve the Delivery of School Psychological Services to Children

This bill changes the term "school psychological service provider" to "school psychologist" in the law pertaining to school psychological services. The bill directs the Commissioner of Education to revise the rules to align the code of ethics and practice standards with those set by the National Association of School Psychologists and the American Psychological Association. A newly certified school psychologist must be supervised for the first year following initial certification at no additional cost to the school administrative unit or the department.

L.D. #1110, PL. Ch. 363—An Act Regarding the Attendance of Attorneys at Individualized Education Program Team Meetings

This bill requires a school administrative unit to notify parents in writing 7 days prior to an individualized education program team meeting whether the school administrative unit will have an attorney present at the meeting. It also adds language that, in the event the parent of a child with a disability has an attorney present at the individualized education program team meeting, the school administrative unit may have an attorney present without providing prior written notice. It also requires the Department of Education to submit provisionally adopted rules to the Legislature by January 13, 2012, to implement the provisions of this legislation.

L.D. #1125, PL. Ch. 244—An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government To Make Necessary Changes to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act

This bill implements the statutory recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government resulting from its study of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

This bill clarifies that a provisionally adopted major substantive rule submitted for legislative review after the statutory deadline for submission may not be finally adopted unless legislation authorizing its adoption is enacted into law or the agency follows the procedure under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 as amended in this bill and the Legislature fails to act. This bill also specifies that an emergency rule must include in its basis statement the agency's findings with respect to the existence of an emergency in a section labeled "findings" and that emergency rules proposed or adopted in whole

or in part to satisfy the requirements of a temporary curtailment order must include a specification in the rule of the dollar amount of curtailed funds attributable to each change adopted in the rule.

L.D. #1136, PL. Ch. 162—An Act To Require the Opportunity To Recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Schools

This bill requires a school administrative unit to allow every student enrolled in the school administrative unit the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at some point during a school day. This bill does not require a student to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

L.D. #1154, PL. Ch. 320—An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee

This bill implements the recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee as included in the advisory committee's 5th annual report. Those sections that affect K-12 education include:

PART B

Part B amends the public policy section of the freedom of access laws to specifically allow communications outside of public proceedings between members of a public body if those communications are not used to defeat the purposes of the freedom of access laws.

PART C

Part C requires that public bodies keep records of their meetings if they are required under the freedom of access laws to give notice of their meetings and the public body is not purely advisory in its authority.

The meeting records must include:

1. The date, time and place of the public proceeding;
2. The members of the body holding the public proceeding recorded as either present or absent; and
3. All motions and votes taken, by individual member, if there is a roll call.

An audio, video or other electronic recording of a public proceeding is an acceptable record. Record management requirements and retention schedules adopted under Title 5, chapter 6 apply to these meeting records. The validity of any action taken in a public proceeding is not affected by the failure to make or maintain a record as required.

PART E

Part E exempts Social Security numbers from the definition of "public records" under the freedom of access laws.

L.D. #1211, PL. Ch. 294—An Act To Include Civics in the Social Studies and History Courses Required for a High School Diploma

This bill says that in order to graduate, students must complete courses in social studies and history that include civics along with American history and government. It does not re-

quire a separate course in civics.

L.D. #1274, PL. Ch. 419—An Act To Restore Equity in Education Funding

This bill amends several provisions of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act to increase allocations to rural school districts and those with high property values that also have a high number of economically disadvantaged students. It also removes the Labor Market adjustment for benefits for all school districts. The changes go into effect in the 2012-2013 school year.

The bill amends the EPS formula by:

— Reducing by 10 percent the per-pupil staff ratios for districts with fewer than 1,200 students. These ratios affect EPS allocations. This provision does not affect teacher staff ratios, just other school staff.

— Removing the Labor Market Adjustment on benefit costs for all School Administrative Units.

— Giving an economically disadvantaged allocation to those minimum subsidy receivers that have a higher than average percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunch.

L.D. #1280, PL. Ch. 108—An Act To Establish a Pilot Physical Education Project in Four Maine Schools

This bill implements the recommendations of the PE4ME planning and oversight team related to improving the health and physical fitness of elementary school children.

1. It amends the provisions of the Obesity and Chronic Disease Fund to authorize the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to use resources allocated from this fund to develop improved physical education programs for elementary schools in the State.

2. It directs the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Maine Governor's Council on Physical Activity to reconvene the PE4ME planning and oversight team, to further implement plans for improving the health, nutrition and physical fitness of elementary school children in the State.

3. It directs the PE4ME planning and oversight team to design and implement a pilot project to demonstrate the efficacy of progressive practices involving physical education and health education in up to 4 elementary schools in the State if sufficient funds are available.

EMERGENCY – Signed May 19, 2011

L.D. #1307, PL. Ch. 171—An Act To Amend and Clarify Certain Education Statutes

This bill affects a variety of education statutes.

- It aligns the board of directors' weighted votes representation in Method B in school administrative districts with the percentage in regional school units.

- It exempts certain reformulated school administrative districts that did not operate a kindergarten-to-grade-12 program from the requirement to maintain such a program.

- It corrects certain references to school administrative districts to refer to school administrative units.

- It clarifies that the vote regarding the closure of an elementary or secondary school in a regional school unit is required only when the school is closed for lack of need.

- It provides that, for regional school units with only one member municipality, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20A, section 4102, subsection 4, paragraph B1 applies as it pertains to the closing of the regional school unit.

- It repeals the annual audit requirement for the purpose of approving private schools for tuition purposes.

- It clarifies that elementary school and secondary school closures for regional school units that have more than one secondary school must be in accordance with the procedures in Title 20A, section 1512.

- It amends the language on reporting dates of the annual student counts for school administrative units and publicly funded students in private schools or programs to those time schedules established by the Commissioner of Education. It also amends the laws governing student counts to require that student counts are based on the number of students in attendance on October 1st and April 1st.

L.D. #1326, PL. Ch. 395—An Act To Allow School Administrative Units To Seek Less Expensive Health Insurance Alternatives

This bill requires insurers to provide school administrative units their own experience and claims history so they can seek competitive bids for school health insurance. Up until now, the Maine Education Association Benefits Trust, which currently controls 98 percent of the school health insurance business in Maine, has refused to release that data.

This bill also allows school administrative units to offer group self-insurance health and dental programs and to enter into cooperative agreements with other school administrative units or municipalities to provide such programs.

The bill provides that school administrative units may arrange for and offer a choice of optional health or dental insurance plans to employees and their families that may vary in benefits provided and costs. MSBA sponsored parallel legislation.

L.D. #1345, PL. Ch. 348—An Act To Align Maine Special Education Statutes with Federal Requirements

This bill eliminates the Interdepartmental Committee on Transition. It also repeals provisions for transitional pilot projects for which funding is no longer provided.

This bill enacts language regarding the duties of school administrative units and the Commissioner of Education with regard to services for students with disabilities who are in transition from school to the community.

It provides for the coordination of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education in the submission of the annual report on efforts to plan for and de-

velop social and habilitative services for persons who have autism and other pervasive developmental disorders.

The bill also says a work group will be formed by the Department of Education to review the responsibilities of state agencies related to transition planning for students with disabilities.

L.D. #1356, PL. Ch. 153—An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the School Revolving Renovation Fund

This bill amends the Maine Municipal Bond Bank Act to allow for funding from the School Revolving Renovation Fund for hazardous material removal in schools and for repairs and improvements related to energy and water conservation.

L.D. #1372, PL. Ch. 28—An Act To Make Additional Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011

This was the second supplemental budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, passed in the First Session of the 125th Legislature. Changes affecting K-12 education dealt with additional funding for Child Development Services.

EMERGENCY – Signed April 14, 2011

L.D. #1402, PL. Ch. 397—An Act To Extend Employment Reference Immunity to School Administrative Units

This bill extends employment reference immunity to employees of school administrative units. It provides legal protection for those school administrative unit employees, who, acting in good faith, disclose information about a former employee's job performance or work record to a prospective employer. MSMA secured sponsorship.

L.D. #1446, Resolve Ch. 91—Resolve, To Develop and Implement a Farm and Fish to School Pilot Program

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the Department of Education and the Department of Marine Resources to, within existing resources, support or otherwise assist one or more cooperating nonprofit organizations in the development and implementation of a pilot program to examine the benefits of promoting the purchasing of food grown or raised and fish raised or caught by Maine food producers for use in primary and secondary school meal programs.

L.D. #1480, PL. Ch. 420—An Act To Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine

This bill corrects errors and omissions in law, including legislation just passed by the 125th Legislature. There are two parts that affect K-12 education.

- The first corrects a clerical error in the final wording of L.D. #976, PL. Ch. 172—An Act To Require 3 Years of Experience in a School Administrative Unit before a Teacher May

Receive a Continuing Contract Offer. The correction makes it clear that after a probationary period of 3 years, subsequent contracts of duly certified teachers must be for not less than 2 years.

- The second part amends new return-to-work rules approved as part of the biennial budget, L.D. #1043. It makes those return-to-work rules apply to teachers and certified administrators who retire at normal retirement age after Sept. 1, 2011.

EMERGENCY – Signed July 6, 2011

L.D. #1488, PL. Ch. 446—An Act To Create Innovative Public School Zones and Innovative Public School Districts

This bill provides for the creation, submission, review and approval of innovation plans to establish innovative public school zones and innovative public school districts. An innovative public school zone and an innovative public school district must demonstrate a system for accountability for student achievement that exceeds, but is not in conflict with, the State's accountability standards and the State's assessment system. The bill allows one or more public schools within a school administrative unit to initiate the creation of an innovation plan for submission to its school board. The bill also permits a school board to initiate and collaborate with one or more of the public schools it operates to create an innovation plan. The bill provides that a school board may obtain waivers of laws, rules and local policy requirements from the Commissioner of Education that are considered necessary for an innovative public school zone or district to implement an innovation plan.

The bill also provides for the establishment of the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services within the Department of Education. The fund permits the department to provide grants to school administrative units, municipalities and counties or a combination of 2 or more of these entities to implement plans for local and regional initiatives including: consolidated school administrative units; purchasing alliances; innovative, autonomous public schools, innovative public school districts or school zones; regional delivery of educational services; or collaborations of municipal-school service delivery or support systems, with the purpose of improving educational opportunity and student achievement.

L.D. #1533, PL. Ch. 324—An Act To Provide for a Method To Remove an Elected Municipal Official

This bill establishes a procedure to recall an elected municipal official if that municipality's ordinances or charter do not address the issue. An elected official may be the subject of a recall only if the official is convicted of a crime, in which the criminal conduct occurred during the official's term in office and in which the victim of the crime is the municipality.

EMERGENCY – Signed June 13, 2011

L.D. #1540, PL. Ch. 346—An Act To Encourage Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education

This bill establishes the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council to develop strategies for enhancing science, technology, engineering and mathematics education from prekindergarten through postsecondary education.

EMERGENCY – Signed June 14, 2011

L.D. #1553, PL. Ch. 414—An Act To Create a Public Charter School Program in Maine

This bill establishes a process to authorize the establishment of public charter schools in the State.

A local school board, a State Charter School Commission, or a collaborative among those authorizing entities are empowered to authorize public charter schools. The State Charter School Commission, made up of three members of the State Board of Education and four members approved by a majority vote of the state board, can authorize up to 10 charter schools during a 10-year transition period, with no limit after that.

Authorizers will publicize requests for proposals. The law outlines what must be in an applicant's request for authorization.

Charter schools may not enroll more than 5 percent of a school administrative unit's students per grade level in the first three years of operation, if the district has an enrollment of 500 or fewer students. The limit is 10 percent of students in districts with enrollments greater than 500. There is no cap after three years.

All state and local operating funds follow each student to the charter school, except that the school administrative unit of the student's residence may retain up to 1% of the per-pupil allocation to cover associated administrative costs. Charter schools with students eligible for funds under Title I must receive and use these funds in accordance with federal and state law.

EMERGENCY – Signed June 29, 2011

L.D. #1559, Resolve Ch. 88—Resolve, To Transfer the Gilford Butler School to Regional School Unit 13

This resolve authorizes the State to transfer ownership of the Gilford Butler School in South Thomaston to Regional School Unit 13.

◆ LEGISLATIVE BILLS: IMPACTING K-12 EDUCATION THAT DID NOT PASS DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 125TH MAINE LEGISLATURE

The following bills were unanimously voted Ought Not To Pass (ONTP) by the legislature and are "dead" for this session:

L.D. #4—Resolve, To Establish Training Routes for School Bus Drivers

L.D. #8—An Act To Increase the Maximum Distance from a School within Which a Sex Offender May Not Reside That May Be Set by Municipal Ordinance

L.D. #18—An Act To Extend the School Year

L.D. #31—An Act To Protect the Safety of Maine Children by Requiring the Express Consent of a Legal Guardian To Dispense Prescription Medication to a Minor

L.D. #93—An Act To Improve Essential Programs and Services Funding for Education

L.D. #130—Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Explore Options To Increase Participation in the University of Southern Maine's Extended Teacher Education Program

L.D. #148—An Act To Set Uniform Standards for School Construction

L.D. #152—An Act To Prohibit Employment Discrimination Based on a Prior Criminal Conviction

L.D. #167—An Act To Provide Full Funding for Advanced Placement Courses

L.D. #171—An Act To Exempt School Administrative District No. 24 and School Administrative District No. 32 from the Laws Requiring School Administrative Unit Consolidation

L.D. #189—An Act To Achieve Cost Savings by Eliminating Deputy Commissioner Positions throughout State Government

L.D. #201—An Act To Modernize and Reduce the Cost of Driver Education

L.D. #218—An Act To Improve the Safety of Minors by Collecting Data on Vehicle Collision Rates

L.D. #232—Resolve, To Change the Name of the Northern Penobscot Technical Center

L.D. #233—An Act To Establish the State Board of Education as the Appointing Authority for the Commissioner of Education

L.D. #236—An Act To Require High School Students To Register To Vote as a Requirement for Graduation

L.D. #250—An Act To Permit Tuition Subsidies by Municipalities

L.D. #257—An Act To Protect Children in Public Schools by Changing Notification Requirements Regarding Sex Offenders

L.D. #268—An Act To Make the Consolidation of School Administrative Units Voluntary and To Eliminate the Penalties for Units That Choose Not To Consolidate

L.D. #275—An Act To Change the Notice Period for Terminating Teachers' Contracts

L.D. #296—An Act To Find Cost Savings and Efficiencies in the Fingerprinting System for Criminal History Background Checks

L.D. #306—Resolve, Directing the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability To Make Recommendations To Find Efficiencies in Per-pupil Costs Associated with Interscholastic Activities

L.D. #326—An Act To Require That School Administrative Units Bear the Burden of Proving That an Individualized Education Program Is Appropriate

L.D. #336—An Act To Preserve the State's Public Pension Fund

L.D. #344—An Act To Authorize Cumberland County To Offer Certain Educational Services

L.D. #347—Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Education To Convene a Task Force To Develop a Proposal for a More Equitable Distribution of Kindergarten to Grade 12 State Education Funding

L.D. #349—An Act To Require the Inclusion of a Financial Statement on School Administrative Unit Bond Obligations When Voting on a School Construction Project

L.D. #353—An Act Regarding Agencies Contracted by the Department of Health and Human Services To Provide Regulatory Oversight and Billing Services

L.D. #389—An Act To Exempt Certain Necessary School Auxiliary Buildings for New Mechanical Systems from Referendum Requirements

L.D. #395—An Act To Mandate That the School Year Not Begin before September 1st

L.D. #428—An Act To Fund Special Education Advocacy

L.D. #444—An Act To Require Annual Evaluation of Public School Teachers

L.D. #449—An Act To Remove the Restriction against a Spouse's Working in a School Administrative Unit in which the Other Spouse Serves on the School Board

L.D. #498—An Act To Extend the Length of the School Day

L.D. #562—An Act Regarding Municipal Authority To Review Construction Permits for Public Buildings

L.D. #598—An Act To Provide Assistance To Economically Disadvantaged Students

L.D. #601—An Act To Set Aside One Percent of Committed State Funds for Food Projects

L.D. #606—An Act To Protect State Education Funds

L.D. #608—An Act To Regionalize Supervision of Students in the Unorganized Territory

L.D. #635—An Act To Provide for the Equitable Reimbursement of Schools Operated by the State in the Unorganized Territory

L.D. #661—An Act To Require Driver Education for All New Drivers

L.D. #662—Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Amend Its Rules Pertaining to the Statute of Limitations for Filing a Due Process Hearing Request Regarding Special Education

L.D. #689—Resolve, Requiring the Department of Education To Amend Its Rules Relating to School Administrative Unit Payments for the Costs Associated with Independent Educational Evaluations

L.D. #717—An Act To Increase the Penalties for Possessing and Displaying a Firearm on School Property

L.D. #758—Resolve, To Establish a Schoolchildren's Well-being Stakeholder Group

L.D. #775—An Act To Clarify Special Education Reporting Requirements

L.D. #782—An Act To Expand Competitive Bidding for Energy Service Contracts with Schools

L.D. #786—An Act To Eliminate the Penalty for School Administrative Units That Did Not Consolidate and Eliminate State Funding of Local Administrative Costs

L.D. #803—An Act To Allow the Town of Dayton To Opt Out of Its Regional School Unit Agreement

L.D. #813—An Act To Require Every School Administrative Unit To Have a Food Service Director

L.D. #817—An Act To Stabilize Short-term Funding of Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

L.D. #844—An Act To Provide Affordable Health Insurance for Municipal and School Employees through Competition

L.D. #857—An Act To Include Teachers in the State Employee Health Insurance Program

L.D. #871—An Act To Allow a 4-day School Week

L.D. #886—An Act To Remove All Federal Funding from Inclusion in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula

L.D. #893—An Act To Require an Employer To Provide Notification Regarding the Employer's Personal Leave Policy to Employees

L.D. #920—An Act To Ensure the Availability of Preventive Health Care Services for Children

L.D. #929—Resolve, To Establish a Study Group To Review the Teacher Certification Process

L.D. #941—An Act To Prohibit Mandatory Immunizations

L.D. #944—An Act To Increase College Attainment

L.D. #952—An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the School Revolving Renovation Fund

L.D. #959—Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Provide Curriculum Consistency in Maine Public Schools

L.D. #971—An Act To Improve the Health of Maine Students

L.D. #977—Resolve, To Analyze the Value of Distance Learning in a Rural Environment

L.D. #988—An Act Concerning Immunity for School Administrative Units in the Discharge of Their Responsibilities

L.D. #1013—An Act Regarding School Board Members and Their Spouses

L.D. #1017—An Act To Improve the Essential Programs and Services Funding Model by Providing for a Cost of Housing Adjustment

L.D. #1044—An Act To Allow a Tax Credit for Tuition Paid to Private Schools

L.D. #1045—An Act To Encourage Better Grades for High School Students by Linking Grades with the Granting of a Driver's License

L.D. #1046—An Act To Amend the Application of the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Public Accommodations

L.D. #1049—An Act To Allow a Municipality To Withdraw from a Regional School Unit

L.D. #1051—An Act To Calculate Essential Programs and Services Funding on an Equal Labor Market

L.D. #1060—Resolve, To Require Regional School Unit No. 20 To Transfer Certain Property to the Town of Searsport

L.D. #1083—An Act To Allow the Town of Arundel To

Withdraw from Its Regional School Unit without Penalty

L.D. #1092—An Act To Allow a Tax Credit for Tuition Paid to Private Schools

L.D. #1107—An Act To Eliminate Penalties under the School Administrative Unit Consolidation Laws for Grand Isle School Department, Madawaska School Department, School Administrative District No. 32, and School Administrative District No. 33

L.D. #1133—An Act To Reform the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

L.D. #1145—Resolve, To Require the Purchase of Maine Wood Fuel by Recipients of Certain Public Funds

L.D. #1149—An Act To Provide Equitable Access to Postsecondary Courses

L.D. #1162—An Act To Allow Members of Professional Associations To Purchase Health Insurance across State Lines

L.D. #1188—An Act To Achieve Maine's High School Graduation Goal

L.D. #1197—An Act To Amend Standards for Participation in Certain Public School Services by Students Who Are Homeschooled

L.D. #1206—An Act To Amend the School Consolidation Laws Pertaining to Higher Performing Schools

L.D. #1214—An Act To Allow a Referendum Regarding School Choice within Regional School Unit No. 12

L.D. #1222—An Act To Promote Fairness in Negotiations between Health Insurance Carriers and Health Care Service Providers

L.D. #1267—An Act To Amend the School Transportation Formula To Recognize One-way Bus Trips

L.D. #1269—An Act To Require That the Taking of a State-wide Assessment Test for High School Seniors Be Voluntary

L.D. #1273—An Act To Establish a 2-week Quiet Period for School Teams

L.D. #1283—An Act To Allow Students Choice in High School Enrollment

L.D. #1289—An Act To Waive Penalties on School Administrative District No. 32 and School Administrative District No. 33 under the School Administrative Unit Consolidation Laws

L.D. #1293—Resolve, To Establish a Study Group To Promote the Use of Locally Grown Food in Schools

L.D. #1298—An Act To Facilitate the Certification of Teachers

L.D. #1322—An Act To Extend the Probationary Period for Teachers

L.D. #1346—An Act To Enhance Access to the Workplace for Minors

L.D. #1379—An Act To Establish Training Routes for School Bus Drivers

L.D. #1380—An Act To Extend the Salary Supplement for National Board-certified Teachers at Publicly Supported Secondary Schools That Enroll at Least 60% Public Students

L.D. #1388—An Act To Allow Schools To Adopt Approved Alternative Curricula

L.D. #1424—An Act To Enhance Parental Roles in Education Choice

L.D. #1425—An Act To Protect the Quality and Integrity of Maine's Educational Materials

L.D. #1430—Resolve, To Conduct a Review of the Roles and Functions of the Department of Education and of Certain Mandates

L.D. #1471—An Act To Require Voter Validation for a School Administrative Unit To Retain Ownership of a School No Longer Used Primarily for Classroom Education

◆ VETOED BILLS

The following bills were passed by the Legislature, but vetoed by the governor.

L.D. #296—An Act To Find Cost Savings and Efficiencies in the Fingerprinting System for Criminal History Background Checks

L.D. #325—An Act To Permit Representation by Persons Other than Attorneys in Certain Hearings, Actions and Proceedings before the Department of Education

L.D. #566—An Act To Encourage Transparency in the Department of Education

L.D. #568—An Act To Create a Unified Early Childhood Education System in Maine

L.D. #1139—An Act To Require Students To Receive Instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the Use of an Automated External Defibrillator prior to Graduation

THANKS to all who helped.

MSMA would like to take this opportunity to thank the many school board members, superintendents, and assistant superintendents who assisted our staff in so many ways throughout this session. A special thanks to the officers of MSBA and MSSA and their Legislative Committee members for their continued insight, advice, involvement and support.

When school board members and superintendents communicate with their legislators, testify at public hearings, and provide information at legislative work sessions, their voices are heard and respected.