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LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

Described below are bills of interest to school systems introduced in the first session of the 125th Legislature printed since the last newsletter. For information on the public hearing/work session schedule or the list of bills that MSMA is following, please go to the MSMA website at www.msmaweb.com.

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

This bill requires the Secretary of State to make available online annually a report detailing the collision rate within 12 months of licensure for all students and for minor students of every approved driver education course in the State during the previous fiscal year. The report must also list the severity of the collisions underlying the collision rate.

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

This resolve directs the Department of Education to rename the Northern Penobscot Technical Center the Northern Penobscot Vocational Center.

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

This bill allows municipalities to give subsidies from their general funds to parents to reimburse them for part or all of the tuition the parents paid to private schools that are precluded from receiving tuition funding from the State. In *Joyce v. State of Maine*, 951 A.2d 69 (Me. 2008), the Law Court essentially acknowledged that it would be constitutionally permissible for municipalities to adopt such subsidy programs, but held that current Maine law, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 2951, prohibits municipalities from doing so.

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

This bill expands notification requirements regarding persons convicted of sex offenses. The bill requires that a law enforcement agency notify the superintendent of a school district where a registered offender is residing, working or attending school. Upon receipt of that information, notwithstanding any confidentiality laws, the superintendent shall provide that information to all teachers and other school personnel. The bill also requires that a superintendent provide notice of the adjudication of a student for a juvenile crime that if committed by an adult would be gross sexual assault to all parents and guardians of students enrolled in the same school as the adjudicated juvenile, only if the juvenile was tried as an adult.

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

This bill amends the laws governing school administrative unit consolidation to make consolidation voluntary and to eliminate the penalties set forth for nonconforming school administrative units.

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

This bill reduces from 90 days to 30 days the period in which a school board may terminate a teacher's contract when changes in local conditions warrant the termination.

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

This bill amends current law to allow the fingerprints of a teacher or an educational personnel applicant pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20A, section 6103 and an applicant for a license for a family foster home to be taken by the sheriffs and chiefs of police in each of the cities and towns. The bill also requires that the sheriffs and chiefs of police be paid for the expenses they incur in fingerprinting an applicant for a license for a family foster home and be reimbursed from the Criminal History Record Check Fund for the expenses they incur in fingerprinting a teacher or educational personnel applicant.

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

This resolve directs the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to provide an accounting of the money spent by school administrative units on a per-pupil basis for interscholastic activities and make recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs regarding how to improve the efficiency of the management of statewide interscholastic activities no later than December 7, 2011. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature on the topic of the report by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability.

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

This bill amends the State's labor laws to ensure that each public sector union represents only those public employees who voluntarily are members of that union.

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

This bill allows a parent who has power of attorney to make education decisions on behalf of an adult child with mental retardation, serious emotional disturbance or other developmental disabilities.

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

This bill permits persons who are not attorneys to represent parents and other parties in proceedings before the Department of Education relating to children with disabilities.

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

This bill places the burden of proof on a school administrative unit in a due process hearing to determine whether the individualized education program developed by the school administrative unit meets the needs of a child with a disability.

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

This bill makes changes to the State's public pension laws to improve the financial condition of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. For the next 6 years, the bill increases the amount of contributions to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System made by state employees and teachers by 1% of earnable compensation. The bill also reduces for 6 years the cost-of-living adjustments for retirement benefits by 50% for persons with annual pensions greater than \$25,000 but not greater than \$45,000 and suspends for 6 years cost-of-living adjustments for persons with annual pensions greater than \$45,000. Persons with pensions of \$25,000 or less continue to receive cost-of-living adjustments. The bill provides for a review of these changes during the 128th Legislature. **EMERGENCY**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to authorize Cumberland County, which recently adopted a comprehensive home rule charter by referendum, to provide regional educational

services, including back-office services for school districts within the county, and specialized educational services such as regional vocational education, special education, a regional science and technology high school or other regional educational initiatives.

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

This resolve directs 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

This bill requires that the article submitted to the voters for a school construction project include a treasurer's statement outlining the total bonding capacity of the school administrative unit and the estimated cost of repaying the debt. The bill also clarifies that any errors in the estimates provided in the treasurer's statement do not invalidate ratification of the article. The bill requires that a treasurer's statement of the amount of indebtedness incurred, including indebtedness associated with bonds, lease agreements or lease-purchase agreements, must be provided when the indebtedness incurred exceeds \$20,000.

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

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules regarding contracts for regulatory oversight and billing services for service providers to require proof that the contractor has obtained financial securitization for all financial obligations, even if the contractor ceases doing business.

L.D. #375—An Act To Exempt Boilers in Municipalities and Schoolhouses from State Inspection Requirements

Under current law, all steam heating boilers, hot water heating boilers and hot water supply boilers that are constructed and installed in accordance with the rules adopted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Board of Boilers and Pressure Vessels are exempt from a state-level boiler inspection program except for the boilers owned and operated by municipalities and schoolhouses. This bill includes municipalities and schoolhouses in the general exemption.

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

This bill shifts the start of the fiscal biennium for the state budget from the first regular session of the Legislature to the second regular session of the Legislature, beginning with the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2014. This bill also provides that the state budget beginning on July 1, 2013 is a one-year budget.

L.D. #385—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 nonconforming school administrative units. The bill also eliminates the provision that gives the Commissioner of Education final approval of a regional school unit, including an alternative organizational structure, and eliminates the requirement that a school after leaving an alternative organizational structure must join a conforming school administrative unit within 2 years. **EMERGENCY**

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

This bill exempts the construction of a school's auxiliary building for the housing of a mechanical system from the public referendum requirement.

L.D. #391—An Act Concerning Models for Teacher and Principal Evaluations

This bill provides that the laws that require the Department of Education to establish models for the evaluation of the professional performance of teachers and principals do not prevent a school administrative unit from

developing and adopting its own models for teacher and principal evaluation. It also provides that the stakeholder group convened by the Commissioner of Education to review models for the evaluation of the professional performance of teachers and principals is charged with reviewing only those models established by the Department of Education.

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

The bill provides that beginning with school year 2012-2013, the academic year for elementary schools, secondary schools, the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System may not begin before September 1st, except that elementary and secondary schools are exempt for school days in which students are not required to attend or participate, and school administrative units that receive an exemption from the Commissioner of Education because students of the school administrative unit are involved in an agricultural harvest are also exempt.

L.D. #397—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.

L.D. #403—An Act To Require That School Administrative Units Establish a Mission Statement for Each of the Public Schools Operated by the School Administrative Unit

This bill requires a school board to adopt a mission statement for every school under its jurisdiction. In developing and adopting a mission statement, a school board must solicit input from teachers, administrators, parents, students and community members. The mission statement must be included in the comprehensive education plan required from all school administrative units, and is subject to review as part of the annual report to the Commissioner of Education on the progress of implementing the plan.

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

This bill allows a school administrative unit to request from its insurer loss information on its employees pursuant to the Maine Insurance Code as part of the competitive bidding process in procuring health insurance for the unit's employees.

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

This bill provides an appropriation directly to the Disability Rights Center, the State's designated protection and advocacy agency for persons with disabilities pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 511. These funds must be used to provide advocacy services for children with disabilities in education-related matters.

L.D. #440—An Act To Allow Employees of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics to Join the State's Group Health Plan

This bill makes employees of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics eligible for the State's group health plan.

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to require that all new public school teachers be formally evaluated on an annual basis. The method of implementation will be at the discretion of each school administration.

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

This bill repeals the restriction against a spouse's working in a school administrative unit in which the other spouse serves on the school board. **EMERGENCY**

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

This bill requires, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, that a school instructional day, which is a day during which both students and teachers are present, must be at least 5 hours and 45 minutes in length.

L.D. #505—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 also exempts culinary arts programs provided by career and technical schools and programs from the requirements of the rules.

L.D. #506—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.

L.D. #509—An Act To Establish Host Homes in Maine as Alternative Emergency Shelters for Homeless Youth

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to establish a category of licensing for host homes to provide shortterm emergency shelter and care for youth who are 14 to 18 years of age and who cannot live at home because of family conflict or other concerns.

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

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to remove the requirement that experience losses incurred by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System be retired in only 10 years and to change the required amortization schedule of unfunded liabilities from a fixed 31-year schedule to a so-called open or rolling 25-year schedule.

L.D. #516—An Act To Amend Maine Law To Conform with Federal Law Regarding Employment Practices for Certain Minors

This bill repeals the limiting of hours minors 16 years of age may work while school is not in session. It repeals all limitations on the hours a minor 17 years of age may work. It also conforms Maine law to federal law.

L.D. #530—An Act To Allow Alternative Delivery Methods for Locally Funded School Construction Projects

This bill authorizes the approval of 10 additional school construction projects by school administrative units seeking to use an alternative delivery method for a school construction project. Such a project must be locally funded, have a minimum total project cost of \$2,500,000 and have an executed contract between the school administrative unit and the project designer dated prior to October 1, 2016.

L.D. #554—An Act To Amend the Telecommunications Education Access Fund

This bill makes changes to provisions governing the telecommunications education access fund to maximize the participation of federal funds, update outdated language and improve the State's ability to bring high-speed broadband service to schools and libraries.

L.D. #560—Resolve, To Increase the Effectiveness of Accessibility Requirements for Persons with Disabilities

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to convene a working group to study increasing the effectiveness of accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities for public buildings, public accommodations, restaurants and eating establishments, colleges and hospitals. The departments are required to provide staffing assistance to the

working group and to report to the Legislature with recommendations for suggested legislation by November 1, 2011.

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

This bill clarifies the authority of municipalities that have been approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety to issue construction permits for public buildings.

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

This bill requires all postsecondary institutions in the State, including institutions offering accredited postsecondary educational and degree programs on the Internet, to report annually to the Department of Education the retention rates of the students for each degree program and the graduation rates for students who complete 2year or associate's degree programs in 2, 3 or 4 years and for students who complete 4year or bachelor's degree programs in 4, 5 or 6 years. This bill requires the Department of Education to report this information annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs and publish the report on the department's publicly accessible website.

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

This bill requires the Department of Education to fully disclose its full budget and the true cost of all its programs and services.

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to create a unified early childhood education system that will result in more effective use of limited resources and produce improved outcomes.

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to support and encourage the use of online textbooks.

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

This bill provides an adjustment for a school administrative unit that is a minimum subsidy receiver if its percentage of economically disadvantaged students is greater than the state average.

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

This bill prohibits school boards from depositing funds received from the State in banks that do not cover losses in cases of fraudulent automatic clearinghouse transactions. "Automatic clearinghouse transaction" means an electronic funds transfer between bank accounts that groups transactions.

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

This bill establishes a 4 district school administrative district system for the unorganized territory. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop rules to transfer state management of the school systems in the unorganized territory to these 4 administrative districts. The commissioner is required to submit to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature provisionally adopted rules and proposed legislation necessary to accomplish this transfer of responsibility. The Joint Standing Committee on Education is authorized to submit a bill related to the unorganized territory school administrative district system to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

L.D. #619—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.

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

This bill provides that the tuition rate that is charged by the Commissioner of Education to a school administrative unit that sends a student to a school maintained by the State in the unorganized territory must be an amount equal to the state average expenditure per elementary pupil as determined by the commissioner pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 5804 or the actual expenditure per elementary pupil calculated by the commissioner for the receiving school administrative unit in the unorganized territory, whichever is greater. **EMERGENCY**

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

This bill requires persons 18 years of age or older to successfully complete a 4hour driver education course before they are issued a license to operate a motor vehicle in this State. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to establish rules governing the driver education curriculum for persons who are 18 years of age or older so that the driver education course includes, but is not limited to, a review of motor vehicle laws and information about driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs and its effect on a person's ability to drive safely.

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

This resolve restores to 6 years the statute of limitations for filing a due process hearing request in special education matters.

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

This bill allows nonresident students to enroll in a school administrative unit's online learning program, with the school administrative unit of residence for that student to pay the enrolling school administrative unit the student's tuition for the program. The bill also directs the Department of Education to create a stakeholder group to study the opportunities in and challenges of creating one online learning program for the State and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 4, 2012.

L.D. #688—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 qualified examiners, experts, advocates and witnesses participate in Individualized Education Program Team Meetings and special education dispute resolution procedures.

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

This resolve directs the Department of Education to amend its rule Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty to provide that, when a parent exercises the parent's right to an independent educational evaluation at public expense, the school is required to pay for the full cost of the evaluation, including the cost for the independent evaluator to produce an evaluation report and to appear before the individualized education program team to present the evaluation report, or to ensure that all of these evaluation costs are otherwise provided for at no cost to the parent.

L.D. #698—An Act To Bring Wage Equity to the Workplace

This bill prohibits the payment of wages to the highest paid employee that are 10 times higher than the wages paid to the lowest paid employee at the same workplace if the employer has 50 or more employees and the employer receives a state tax credit, state tax break or state funds or is a contractor for public works construction.

L.D. #715—Resolve, To Ensure That Maine Teachers and Paraprofessionals Who Work with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Are Highly Qualified

This resolve requires 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 highly qualified. The work group is required to submit its recommendations to the department by November 1, 2011. The department is 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 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs is authorized to introduce legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. **EMERGENCY**

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

This bill increases the offense of possessing a firearm on public school property or the property of an approved private school from a Class E crime to a Class C crime and provides that the offense of displaying a firearm on public school property or the property of an approved private school is a Class B crime.

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

This 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, subsection 1A. It also provides that underground oil storage tanks and facilities do not need to be abandoned while they are not in service if they are tested in accordance with the provisions of Title 38, section 564, subsection 1A.

L.D. #744—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.

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

This resolve requires the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to jointly convene a stakeholder group to identify options and alternatives to improve and maintain the nutritional well-being of schoolchildren. In particular, the focus of the stakeholder group will be to explore ways and make recommendations to address childhood behavioral disorders, attention deficit and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, autism spectrum disorders and child obesity through nutritional strategies that include food choices and dietary supplementation. The departments are required to present the work of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and may suggest legislation to the joint standing committees, which may each submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

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

This bill addresses the documented educational and rehabilitation needs of blind students and adults by funding approximately 50% of the professional staff shortage identified by both:

1. The report of the stakeholder working group established to review the current and future needs of blind or visually impaired individuals established pursuant to Resolve 2009, chapter 39; and
2. The recommendations of the Department of Education's corrective action plan work group in regard to Disability Rights Center v. Maine Department of Education dated July 28, 2010.

The bill addresses the immediate crisis in staff shortages identified by both of the above-referenced reports, thereby avoiding a failure by this State to comply with federally mandated levels of special education services for Maine students who are blind or visually impaired.

The bill meets the rapidly expanding need for vision rehabilitation and independent living services for adults dealing with vision loss due to both the general aging of the population and age-related eye diseases that cause

vision loss.

The bill provides funding for the following positions:

1. Two Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired positions, to be competitively contracted by the Department of Labor, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, currently contracted through Catholic Charities of Maine;
2. One Orientation and Mobility Instructor for the Blind position and one Blindness Rehabilitation Specialist position, both to be employed by the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired;
3. One full-time and 2 half-time Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist positions, to be competitively contracted by the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, currently contracted through The Iris Network; and
4. One Director of Program Design and Evaluation position to be competitively contracted by the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

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

This bill requires a school administrative unit to report legal disputes between a parent, surrogate parent or guardian of a child with a disability and the school administrative unit concerning a student's special education program to the Commissioner of Education. This bill also requires the Commissioner of Education to track these reports and report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters a summary of the reports received from school administrative units. This bill also requires school administrative units to maintain files on each dispute.

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

This bill removes provisions of law that allow school administrative units to use a process other than a competitive bid process in selecting energy service providers for the design, installation, operation, maintenance and financing of energy conservation or combined energy conservation and air quality improvements. This bill requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to adopt by rule a model contract for these services.

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

This bill provides that school projects for the design, installation, operation, maintenance and financing of energy conservation or combined energy conservation and air quality improvements at existing school administrative unit facilities are subject to competitive bidding requirements.

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

This bill amends the laws governing school administrative unit reorganization to eliminate the penalties set forth for nonconforming school administrative units. It also requires that a school administrative unit pay local administrative costs using local funds and provides that state funds may not be appropriated or allocated to pay local administrative costs.

L.D. #788—An Act To Prohibit Forced Payment of Labor Union Dues or Fees by Workers

This bill guarantees workers free choice in deciding whether to join or refrain from joining labor unions. It prohibits employers from deducting fees from nonunion employees.

L.D. #800—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**

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

This bill allows the Town of Dayton to withdraw from Regional School Unit No. 23 without penalty upon a favorable vote of the residents of the Town of Dayton. If the vote required by this bill is favorable to withdraw, this bill allows the school department in the Town of Dayton to form an alternative organizational structure.

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

This bill requires all school administrative units to hire a professional food service director. The bill allows school administrative units to join in cooperative agreements to hire such directors.

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

This bill amends the annual targets for the state share percentage of the statewide adjusted total cost of the components of essential programs and services. **EMERGENCY**

L.D. #837—An Act To Protect Children's Health and Promote Safe Schools and Child Care Centers by Limiting the Use of Pesticides

This bill requires that the use of pesticides on school grounds is restricted to situations that pose a health threat to a student or staff member and when the presence of animals or insects have been identified as a public health nuisance. It requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to adopt rules to provide similar restrictions on the use of pesticides on the grounds of child care facilities and nursery schools.

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

This bill removes the waiver of competitive bidding available to school boards for health insurance. It requires that school boards purchase health insurance for employees through competitive bidding, including in school units in which municipal and school insurance is purchased as a package by municipal government. The bill requires that insurers, nonprofit hospital and medical service organizations and health maintenance organizations provide a school administrative unit with information concerning the unit's own experience rating and claims history as a member covered under a group policy or contract at the unit's request or at the request of any municipality in the unit. The bill also makes members of the Maine Municipal Association and members of the Maine Education Association eligible to participate in the group health plan for state employees and makes employees of school administrative units and municipalities eligible to participate in the plan if their school boards or municipalities elect to participate in the plan.