

**LD 1668: An Act To Improve the Regional School Unit Budget Approval and Validation Process.** (Sponsored by Sen. SnoweMello of Androscoggin Cty; additional cosponsors.)

This bill makes three changes to the law governing the school budget validation process. First, the bill requires the question on the ballot to expressly state the dollar amount of the budget as well as the amount the proposed budget is greater than or less than the budget adopted for the previous school year. Second, the bill changes the default budget which is established as the operating budget if no school budget is finally approved as of the July 1 start-up date of each school year. Under current law, the default budget is the latest budget submitted by the school board to the school system's legislative body, which becomes the operational budget until the actual school budget is finally adopted. Under this bill, the default budget is the latest budget actually approved at a budget validation referendum. Finally, the bill changes the presumptive school budget upon which the municipal officers may base a commitment of taxes in the circumstance where no school budget has been adopted but the taxes need to be committed in order to send out tax bills. Under current law, the presumptive budget upon which to base such a commitment is the latest school budget approved by the school's legislative body, even if not ratified at the "budget validation referendum." Under this bill, the commitment would have to be based on the most recent budget actually approved at referendum.

**1678: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Stalking and Domestic Violence.** (Sponsored by Sen. Mason of Androscoggin Cty; additional cosponsors.)

This "concept draft" bill proposes to amend the laws governing stalking and domestic violence by strengthening provisions relating to serial stalking and increasing penalties for defendants with multiple convictions for stalking and domestic violence offences to better ensure the safety of victim.

**LD 1696: An Act To Modify the Alternative Organizational Structure Budget Approval Process.** (Sponsored by Rep. David Burns; additional cosponsors.)

The budget of a school system organized as an Alternative Organizational Structure (AOS) is essentially the budget of the superintendent's office and other functions provided in a central office manner to the various participating municipal school systems within the AOS. Under current law, the AOS budget is adopted by the combined voters within the entire AOS at an open meeting. (No budget validation referendum vote is required.) Under this bill, the AOS budget could be approved by the AOS school board (governing body) rather than the voters, if the voters expressly provide the governing body that authority at an election.

**LD 1723: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 122: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education. (Emergency)**  
(Sponsored by Rep. Richardson of Carmel.)

**This resolve provides for legislative review of a “major substantive” rule provisionally adopted by the Department of Education, Chapter 122: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services (Fund).** As provisionally adopted, the rule establishes the process whereby school systems, municipalities and counties may apply for and be awarded grants from the Fund in order to implement changes in governance, administrative structures or policies that result in the creation of consolidated school administrative units; purchasing alliances, innovative “autonomous” public schools, innovative public school districts, innovative public school zones, regional delivery of educational services, or collaborations of municipal-school delivery or support systems. **The actual Fund has been created by the Legislature but not significantly capitalized.**

**(NOTE: A “major substantive” rule is one that makes make substantial changes to the rule. It goes back to the Legislature and the committee of jurisdiction decides if they want to review the new rule. If no than the rule goes into effect. If yes it must pass the legislature.)**

**LD 1742: An Act To Amend Education Laws.**  
(Sponsored by Rep. Richardson of Carmel.)

**This bill makes a number of minor, clarifying and technical changes to the laws governing K-12 education. Among the changes with some substance, the bill requires a follow-up “school budget validation referendum” vote to occur no longer than 30 days after a validation referendum vote that fails to approve the proposed school budget. The bill also reinstates the requirement that all school systems operate a “gifted and talented” educational program.**

**1762 An Act To Amend and Clarify the Public Charter School Law. (Emergency)**  
(Sponsored by Sen. Mason of Androscoggin Cty.)

**This emergency bill makes a number of changes to the Public Charter School law enacted in 2011, primarily for the purpose of clarifying ambiguous provisions or establishing more precise procedural requirements. One element of the bill impacting municipalities directly is the section governing the circumstance where a school system fails to make required payments to an established charter school under the money-following the student funding policy. Under current law, the State Treasurer is allowed to deduct the payments required from the state funds that would be otherwise provided to the delinquent school system. Under this bill the State Treasurer could also choose to deduct the required payments from the municipalities within the delinquent school system.**

**LD 1766: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the State Board of Education. (Emergency)**  
(Sponsored by Rep. Richardson of Carmel.)

This resolve provides for legislative review of Chapter 61: **Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, which is a “major substantive” rule of the Department of Education and State Board of Education.**

**LD 1781: An Act To Restructure the National Board Certification Program for Teachers.**  
(Sponsored by Sen. Alfond of Cumberland Cty; additional cosponsors.)

Under current law, public school teachers who attain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards are provided a \$3,000 salary supplement for the life of the certificate that is provided by the state’s Department of Education. **This bill would reduce the salary supplement provided by the state to \$2,000, and require the school system to provide a \$1,000 salary supplement from the school’s General Purpose Aid for Local Schools subsidy.**

**LD 1783: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 140: Public Charter Schools, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education. (Emergency)**  
(Sponsored by Rep. Richardson of Carmel.)

**This emergency resolve provides for legislative review of the “major substantive” rules provisionally adopted by the Department of Education governing Chapter 140: Public Charter Schools.**

**LD 1788: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.**  
(Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Richardson of Carmel.)

This emergency resolve provides for legislative review of “major substantive” amendments to rules provisionally adopted by the Department of Education regarding Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and the School Revolving Renovation Fund