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# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

◆ **123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION CONVENES**

The First Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature has convened, and there are a number of very significant bills that have been introduced that would seriously impact the public schools of our state.

Drawing the most attention are proposals within Governor Baldacci's proposed budget that would eliminate the current 290 school boards and 152 superintendents and replace our existing governance and administration with 26 super-sized units, governed by 26 regional mega-boards composed of from five to 15 elected board members. This plan has already been the subject of a special MSMA Legislative Bulletin with more information to come as the debate and quest for detailed and reliable information continues.

In addition to the above, MSMA will keep you informed about those other LDs from among the over 2,400 already introduced that have significance to school boards and superintendents. If your board has not already designated a Legislative Contact Person, please do so as soon as possible as this will really assist us in communicating with your unit.

We encourage you to become involved in and informed on the many educational issues that will be subject to legislative attention this session. Please develop a local plan and stay in contact with members of your delegation, sharing with them your position and serving as a valuable resource for them as they decide how to vote. Remember that your involvement and contact at the local level is our most effective means of influencing legislators and gaining much-needed support for our Maine students.

◆ **HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR**

**TO CONTACT A STATE SENATOR**

Write: The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
 Senate Chamber  
 3 State House Station  
 Augusta, Maine 04333  
 Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

Call: (207) 287-1540  
 Telefax: (207) 287-1900

**TO CONTACT A STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Write: The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
 House of Representatives  
 2 State House Station  
 Augusta, Maine 04333  
 Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

Call: (207) 287-1400  
 Telefax: (207) 287-1456

**TOLL FREE MESSAGE**

If you call one of the toll free numbers listed below, a member of the Legislature's staff will transcribe your message within the hour and place it in your legislator's mailbox.

After the beep: State which legislator you wish to reach, then leave your name, organization, phone number, and message. Make your message brief and to the point. Be sure to specify the bill by LD number. Legislators tell us they check these messages frequently.

Senators: 1-800-423-6900  
 Representatives: 1-800-423-2900

**EMAIL**

If you choose to email a legislator, please keep in mind that members may not receive email messages immediately. If time is crucial, please call and leave a phone message at the Senate or House Office.

Senate email list website: <http://www.state.me.us/legis/senate/senators/email/maillst.htm>  
 House email list website: <http://janus.state.me.us/house/email.htm>

## ◆ SENATE LEADERSHIP

**President of the Senate**—Beth Edmonds (D-Cumberland County), office telephone: 287-1500/office email: [SenBeth.Edmonds@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:SenBeth.Edmonds@legislature.maine.gov)

**Senate Democratic Leader**—Elizabeth Mitchell (D-Kennebec County), office telephone: 285-1515/office email: [SenLibby.Mitchell@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:SenLibby.Mitchell@legislature.maine.gov)

**Assistant Senate Democratic Leader**—John L. Martin (D-Aroostook County) office telephone: 287-1515/office email: [SenJohn.Martin@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:SenJohn.Martin@legislature.maine.gov)

**Senate Republican Leader**—Carol Watson (R-Waldo County) office telephone: 287-1505/home email: [cweston@pivot.net](mailto:cweston@pivot.net)

**Assistant Senate Republican Leader**—Richard Rosen (R-Hancock County) office telephone: 287-1505/home email: [rrosen113@aol.com](mailto:rrosen113@aol.com)

## ◆ HOUSE LEADERSHIP

**Speaker of the House**—Glen Cummings (D-Portland) office telephone: 287-3000/office email: [RepGlen.Cummings@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:RepGlen.Cummings@legislature.maine.gov)

**House Majority Leader**—Hannah Pingree (D-North Haven) office telephone: 287-1430/office email: [RepHannah.Pingree@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:RepHannah.Pingree@legislature.maine.gov)

**Assistant House Majority Leader**—Sean Faircloth (D-Bangor) office telephone: 287-1430/office email: [RepSean.Faircloth@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:RepSean.Faircloth@legislature.maine.gov)

**House Minority Leader**—Joshua Tardy (R-Newport) office telephone: 287-1440/home email: [tardylaw@adelphia.net](mailto:tardylaw@adelphia.net)

**Assistant House Minority Leader**—Robert Crosthwaite (R-Ellsworth) office telephone: 287-1440/office email: [RepBob.Crosthwaite@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:RepBob.Crosthwaite@legislature.maine.gov)

## ◆ COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

There are four Joint Standing Committees that will play an important part in the shaping of education-related legislation during the next two years. They are:

### Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA)

Senate: Margaret Rotundo, Chair (D-Androscoggin)  
John L. Martin (D-Aroostook)  
Karl W. Turner (R-Cumberland)

House: Jeremy R. Fischer, Chair (D-Presque Isle)  
Margaret M. Craven (D-Lewiston)  
Janet T. Mills (D-Farmington)  
Emily Ann Cain (D-Orono)  
Linda M. Valentino (D-Saco)  
David C. Webster (D-Freeport)  
H. Sawin Millett, Jr. (R-Waterford)\*  
Patrick S. A. Flood (R-Winthrop)  
John C. Robinson (R-Raymond)  
Jayne Crosby Giles (R-Belfast)

### Education and Cultural Affairs (EDU)

Senate: Peter B. Bowman, Chair (D-York)  
Elizabeth H. Mitchell (D-Kennebec)  
Peter Mills (R-Somerset)

House: Jacqueline R. Norton, Chair (D-Bangor)  
Edward D. Finch (D-Fairfield)  
Elaine Makas (D-Lewiston)  
David W. Farrington (D-Gorham)  
Charles William Harlow (D-Portland)  
Patricia B. Sutherland (D-Chapman)  
Peter Edgecomb (R-Caribou)\*  
Howard E. McFadden (R-Dennysville)

Roberta M. Muse (R-Fryeburg)  
Meredith N. Strang Burgess (R-Cumberland)

### Insurance and Financial Services (IFS)

Senate: Nancy B. Sullivan, Chair (D-York)  
Peter B. Bowman (D-York)  
Lois A. Snowe-Mello (R-Androscoggin)

House: John R. Brautigam, Chair (D-Falmouth)  
Marilyn E. Canavan (D-Waterville)  
Sharon Anglin Treat (D-Farmingdale)  
Charles R. Priest (D-Brunswick)  
Jill M. Conover (D-Oakland)  
Patsy Garside Crockett (D-Augusta)  
Wesley E. Richardson (R-Warren)\*  
Michael A. Vaughan (R-Durham)  
Jonathan B. McKane (R-Newcastle)  
David G. Savage (R-Falmouth)

### Labor (Including Retirement) (LAB)

Senate: Ethan Strimling, Chair (D-Cumberland)  
Nancy B. Sullivan (D-York)  
Dana L. Dow (R-Lincoln)

House: John L. Tuttle, Jr., Chair (D-Sanford)  
Troy Dale Jackson (D-Allagash)  
Herbert E. Clark (D-Millinocket)  
Timothy E. Driscoll (D-Westbrook)  
Anne M. Haskell (D-Portland)  
Richard John Burns (D-Berwick)  
Brian M. Duprey (R-Hampden)\*  
Philip A. Cressey, Jr. (R-Cornish)  
Henry L. Joy (R-Crystal)  
Richard M. Sykes (R-Harrison)

\*Ranking Republican Member