

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

August 2015

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# STATE OF MAINE

127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....                                  | <i>carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>                           |
| <i>CON RES XXX</i> .....                                   | <i>chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses</i>                      |
| <i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....                     | <i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died</i>                         |
| <i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i> .....                           | <i>House &amp; Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>                                    |
| <i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....                           | <i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>                |
| <i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....                           | <i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>                            |
| <i>EMERGENCY</i> .....                                     | <i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>            |
| <i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....  | <i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>                                     |
| <i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....            | <i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>   |
| <i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....                     | <i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>                      |
| <i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i> .....                              | <i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i> |
| <i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i> .....                             | <i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>                                 |
| <i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....                  | <i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>                     |
| <i>INDEF PP</i> .....                                      | <i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>  |
| <i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i> .... | <i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>                               |
| <i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....                                   | <i>chapter # of enacted private &amp; special law</i>                                    |
| <i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....                                    | <i>chapter # of enacted public law</i>   |
| <i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....                                   | <i>chapter # of finally passed resolve</i>   |
| <i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....                                | <i>Legislature failed to override Governor's veto</i>                                    |

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 15, 2015. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

***Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs***

part-time students in grades nine to 12 and must place emphasis on blended learning models for high school students.

The Maine Charter School Commission is directed to report its findings, recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation with respect to the authorization or operation of virtual public charter schools to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 1, 2015 and authorizes the joint standing committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature related to the recommendations included in this report.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-156)**

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment strikes the provisions in the bill that specify that a virtual public charter school may enroll students only on a part-time basis and amends provisions in the bill to indicate that a virtual public charter school enrolls students on a full-time basis. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**LD 711      An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools**

**Accepted Minority  
(ONTP) Report**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>   | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DAUGHTRY<br>MILLETT | OTP-AM<br>ONTP          |                           |

This bill requires that, by September 1, 2017, each school administrative unit ensure that its secondary schools' school days start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and that there be at least 11 consecutive hours of uninterrupted time from the end of a class, extracurricular activity, athletic practice or any other school activity to the start of the next school day. A school administrative unit is required to submit a compliance plan. Units that do not comply face reductions in the state share of funding attributable to the cost of the components of essential programs and services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-123)**

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment changes the earliest allowed school day start time for secondary schools proposed in the bill from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and eliminates the requirement in the bill that a secondary school within a school administrative unit must allow 11 consecutive hours between school activities and the next school day. The amendment also eliminates the requirement in the bill that a school administrative unit provide a plan to adopt a later school start time in its secondary schools.

**LD 725      An Act To Increase Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Maine Public Schools**

**ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>   | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SAVIELLO<br>NUTTING | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill requires a school administrative unit to complete and file proof of completion of suicide prevention awareness education and suicide prevention and intervention training for school personnel with the Department of Education. It also requires health education provided by a school administrative unit to students in grades 8 to 12 to include a comprehensive suicide prevention program.