

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<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 2017

**STAFF:**

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
ALYSON MAYO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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## 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 128<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.

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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*

**LD 32      An Act To Increase the Size of Grants under the Maine State Grant Program**

**Died Between Houses**

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

This bill increases the minimum grant amount under the Maine State Grant Program from \$1,000 to \$2,000, subject to the current grant amount modifications under the program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-7)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and changes the minimum grant amount under the Maine State Grant Program from \$2,000 as proposed in the bill to \$1,500. It also adds a \$2,500,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2017-18 and fiscal year 2018-19 to fund the increase in the minimum grant amount. This amendment provides that the appropriations are ongoing.

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 43      Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Study Higher Education Attainment and Completion Goals**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT R PIERCE T	ONTP	

This resolve establishes the Task Force To Study Higher Education Attainment and Completion Goals. The task force membership consists of legislators, representatives of quasi-governmental and business entities, state agency commissioners and one member of the public. The task force's duties include examination and review in the areas of college completion, statewide postsecondary education attainment goals and metrics, college affordability and completion initiatives and college and university support of state policies and strategies to enable college completion and support workforce development. The task force is required to submit a report containing its findings and recommendations, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 15, 2017.

**LD 48      An Act To Provide for Fairness in the Transfer of Students**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS N DAVIS P	ONTP	

Current law provides no appeal for a student denied a request to transfer to a school administrative unit that does not operate a public school that includes the grade level of the student. This bill provides that the appeals process that applies to other transfer students applies to such a student and explicitly makes the law regarding transfers apply to a transfer involving a private school approved for tuition purposes pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 117, subchapter 2.