

# 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**

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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*

sponsored by the local school unit on the same basis as a student receiving homeschool instruction may do under current law. The amendment adds a requirement that the student pay the same fees as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity pay. The local school unit may not impose any eligibility standards for participation in extracurricular activities by an eligible student that are not imposed on all other students.

The amendment also provides that, if an eligible student participates in cocurricular or extracurricular activities, the public charter school in which the eligible student is enrolled is required to pay to the local school unit the amount of the EPS per-pupil funding received by the public charter school for cocurricular and extracurricular activities, except that the public charter school is not required to pay in any fiscal year more than 100% of the fiscal year amount of the EPS per-pupil funding received by the public charter school for cocurricular and extracurricular activities.

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 1233      An Act To Provide Veterans and Gold Star Families Free Admission to the Maine State Museum      ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>    | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SHEATS B<br>CARSON B | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill provides for free admission to the Maine State Museum for veterans and persons who are eligible to possess gold star lapel buttons or lapel buttons for next of kin of deceased military personnel.

**LD 1234      An Act To Amend Maine's Truancy Laws by Specifying Penalties for Noncompliance      ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>    | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GERRISH K<br>MAKER J | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill changes the age range for compulsory school attendance from seven years of age to under 17 years of age to six years of age to under 18 years of age and changes the number of absences required for a student to be considered truant. It establishes a fine for parents adjudged for repeated violations of the truancy laws and allows the superintendent to inform the Department of Health and Human Services that the student is a victim of abuse or neglect based on the parent's failure to ensure compliance with school attendance requirements. It also establishes a fine and possible driver's license suspension for truant students.

**LD 1286      An Act To Facilitate Compliance by School Employees with Criminal History Record Check and Fingerprinting Requirements      CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>     | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MILLETT R<br>MAREAN D | OTP-AM                  | S-221                     |

This bill requires every school administrative unit to obtain a criminal history background check of an individual before hiring or placing that individual within the school administrative unit except for educational personnel currently required to undergo a criminal history background check. This bill also requires every school administrative unit to conduct an audit to determine if the school administrative unit possesses a criminal history background check for all current employees of the school administrative unit and to obtain criminal history background checks for those employees for whom the school administrative unit does not have a criminal history