

# 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

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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*

3. Provides that state funding for the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering must be provided using the method established for public charter schools that are authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission;
4. Replaces the so-called declining enrollment adjustment to the calculation of essential programs and services;
5. Repeals the authority of the Commissioner of Education to expend and disburse funds for school improvement and support, implementation of performance evaluation and professional growth systems and learning results implementation, assessment and accountability;
6. Provides funding and authority for the commissioner to expend and disburse funds through a competitive grant process to establish pilot programs that would benefit students in public schools in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
7. Provides funding and authority for the commissioner to expend and disburse funds to provide training for identification and intervention services for children with autism; and
8. Corrects cross-references.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-185)**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment replaces the appropriations and allocations section in the bill.

This amendment was not adopted.

### **LD 1555     An Act To Facilitate a Statewide Teacher Contract**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIMBERLAKE J	ONTP	

This bill allows a public employer of teachers to designate the State as its representative in collective bargaining negotiations for the purpose of encouraging consistent teacher contracts statewide.

### **LD 1569     An Act To Revise Certification Statutes for Educational Personnel**

**PUBLIC 235**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KORNFIELD T	OTP-AM	H-515

This bill amends the laws governing the credentialing process for teachers, educational specialists and administrators, and replaces references to the certification, authorization and approval of teachers and educational personnel with references to credentialing teachers and educational personnel.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-515)**

This amendment amends the bill's proposals related to the laws governing the credentialing process for teachers, educational specialists and administrators. The amendment also provides a process for the certification of educational technicians.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

Public Law 2017, chapter 235 amends the laws governing the credentialing process for teachers, educational specialists and administrators, and replaces references to the certification, authorization and approval of teachers and educational personnel with references to credentialing teachers and educational personnel. The law also amends the process for the certification of educational technicians.

**LD 1576     An Act To Enable Earlier Introduction of Career and Technical Education in Maine Schools**

**PUBLIC 171**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY B SAMPSON H	OTP	

This bill amends the career and technical education laws to enable career and technical education programs to serve students in grades six to eight.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 171 amends the career and technical education laws to enable career and technical education programs to serve students in grades six to eight.

**LD 1578     An Act Regarding Educational Standards for Maine Students**

**Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL W	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill accomplishes the following with regard to the statewide content standards, statewide assessment programs and the comparison of recent and proposed content standards and statewide assessment programs.

With regard to content standards, the bill:

1. Prohibits the Department of Education from adopting and implementing the common core state standards, or any standards developed by any similar initiative process or program, as the State's content standards for English language arts and mathematics and voids any prior actions taken to adopt or implement the common core state standards;
2. Requires the Department of Education, within 90 days after the bill's effective date, to replace the content standards in English language arts and mathematics with new standards that are consistent with the standards adopted by Massachusetts prior to that state's adoption of the common core state standards so that Maine's standards are, as much as possible, identical to those adopted by Massachusetts, except when a Maine context requires otherwise;
3. Specifies that the content standards that are based on the Massachusetts standards are effective for the 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years only;
4. Requires the Department of Education, by June 30, 2019, to adopt new content standards for kindergarten and for each of grades one to 12 in English language arts and mathematics that are distinct and independent from the standards previously adopted by the Department of Education so that they are in place beginning with the 2021-2022 school year;