

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH 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

127TH 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 127th 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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted private & 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 127th 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.

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LD 3

An Act To Ensure Consistent Certification of Graduation Standards in Publicly Funded Secondary Schools

**PUBLIC 40
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL	OTP-AM	H-70

This bill makes demonstrated proficiency in the system of learning results a requirement for the award of a diploma indicating graduation from a public charter school, in order to match the requirements for public schools and private schools approved for tuition that enroll at least 60 percent publicly funded students. The bill also makes the statewide assessment program required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6202 applicable to public charter schools.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-70)

This amendment retains the provisions of the bill that clarify that public charter schools are subject to the provisions established under the system of learning results, including the statewide assessment program designed to measure students' academic achievement, that apply to public schools and private schools approved for tuition purposes that enroll at least 60 percent publicly funded students. The amendment adds the following provisions to the bill.

1. It provides that public charter schools are subject to the provisions established under the state standards initiated for awarding proficiency-based diplomas in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A and also provides that public charter schools are eligible for transition grants to implement the proficiency-based diploma standards.
2. It provides that a public charter school that operates a public preschool program must comply with the rules adopted by the Department of Education regarding basic school approval requirements for public preschool programs.
3. It updates a reference to the organization that approves accreditation for secondary private schools as part of the basic school approval provisions for private schools and revises this basic school approval provision to specify that a private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60 percent publicly funded students may be approved under this provision if it also meets the requirements of the system of learning results.
4. It requires that private secondary schools approved for attendance purposes by the Department of Education include the instruction required by the provisions established under the state standards initiated for awarding proficiency-based diplomas to secondary school students.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 40 changes the education statutes to clarify that public charter schools are subject to the provisions established under the system of learning results, including the statewide assessment program designed to measure students' academic achievement, that apply to public schools and private schools approved for tuition purposes that enroll at least 60 percent publicly funded students. This law amends and clarifies the following statutory provisions.

1. It provides that public charter schools are subject to the provisions established under the state standards initiated for awarding proficiency-based diplomas in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A and also provides that public charter schools are eligible for transition grants to implement the proficiency-based diploma standards.
2. It provides that a public charter school that operates a public preschool program must comply with the rules

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adopted by the Department of Education regarding basic school approval requirements for public preschool programs.

3. It updates a reference to the organization that approves accreditation for secondary private schools as part of the basic school approval provisions for private schools and revises this basic school approval provision to specify that a private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60 percent publicly funded students may be approved under this provision if it also meets the requirements of the system of learning results.

4. It requires that private secondary schools approved for attendance purposes by the Department of Education include the instruction required by the provisions established under the state standards initiated for awarding proficiency-based diplomas to secondary school students.

Public Law 2015, chapter 40 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 30, 2015.

LD 17 An Act To Restore Programs and Faculty to the University of Maine System ONTP

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

This bill provides ongoing funds to restore programs and faculty to the University of Maine System.

LD 18 Resolve, To Review and Audit the University of Maine System's Finances and Governance Practices ONTP

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

This resolve directs the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to review and audit the University of Maine System's finances and governance practices and submit a report of its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2016. The joint standing committee may submit legislation on the topic of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

LD 19 An Act Regarding Special Education for Students Enrolled in a Home Instruction Program ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ESPLING BRAKEY	ONTP	

This bill provides that a student enrolled in a home instruction program is eligible for special education and related services in the same manner that students enrolled in a private school are eligible for these services.