

# 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

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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 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*

**LD 65      An Act To Apply Equally a Curtailment or Other Loss in General      ONTP**  
**Purpose Aid to Education**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL EDGECOMB P	ONTP	

If state revenue to a school administrative unit is reduced for any reason, this bill allows a school administrative unit to reduce the tuition it pays to a public or private school by the same percentage that the school administrative unit's share of state revenue under essential programs and services is reduced.

**LD 97      Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Amend the School      RESOLVE 2**  
**Emergency Drill Rules**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY FARNSWORTH	OTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Education to amend school emergency evacuation rules to include lockdown drills as well as emergency evacuation drills within the established required number of drills to be performed.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2015, chapter 2 directs the Department of Education to amend school emergency evacuation rules to include lockdown drills as well as emergency evacuation drills within the established required number of drills to be performed.

**LD 99      An Act To Stabilize the Faculty and Programs at the University of      ONTP**  
**Southern Maine**

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

This bill provides one-time funds of \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 to the University of Southern Maine to develop a recruitment and marketing program to stabilize enrollment.

**LD 109      An Act To Ensure Maine Companies Have Access to Skilled Labor      Died On  
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ESPLING HASKELL	OTP-AM	H-20

This bill provides \$75,000 per fiscal year to the Department of Education for the New Mainers Resource Center.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-20)**

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

**LD 127      An Act To Preserve Programs in Allied Health at Kennebec Valley Community College** **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

This bill provides one-time funding in fiscal year 2015-16 to Kennebec Valley Community College to preserve its programs in allied health.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-36)**

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

**LD 128      An Act To Allow a School Administrative Unit To Implement a Firearm Safety Education Program for Elementary School Students** **ONTP**

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

This bill requires the State Board of Education to develop guidelines for a standardized program of firearm safety education for elementary students and provides that school boards may adopt a firearm safety education program in conformance with the guidelines.

**LD 129      An Act To Provide Options to Schools for Making Up School Days** **PUBLIC 60  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL EDGECOMB P	OTP-AM	H-37

This bill provides that school administrative units may annually extend up to 25 school days by one hour each day. Five one-hour extensions count as one additional school day. Schools may use the extensions only to make up school days missed because of weather or emergency closures.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-37)**

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill and directs the Department of Education to amend its rules regarding the methods required and the options available for school officials to request a waiver from the Commissioner of Education to schedule make-up days and reschedule instructional time in Section 6 of Rule Chapter 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units. The amendment directs the Department of Education to adopt the amendments to the rule within seven business days of the effective date of this legislation. It also provides that the amended rule becomes effective when filed by the department.

The amendment retains the provisions in the bill that provide that school administrative units may annually extend up to 25 school days by one hour each day, that five one-hour extensions count as one additional school day and that