

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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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.

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 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.

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 EDGE COMB 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

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schools may use the extensions only to make up school days missed because of weather or emergency closures. The amendment requires approval of the Commissioner of Education for implementation of extensions.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 60 provides that, upon approval of the Commissioner of Education, school administrative units may annually extend up to 25 school days by one hour each day to make up school days missed because of weather or emergency closures. The law provides that five one-hour extensions count as one additional school day for a school up day missed because of weather or emergency closure. The law also directs the Department of Education to amend its rules in Section 6 of Rule Chapter 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units 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.

Public Law 2015, chapter 60 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 10, 2015.

LD 130 An Act To Exempt Certain Established Public Prekindergarten Programs from New Regulations ONTP

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

This bill exempts public preschool programs in existence for at least three years on September 1, 2014 from new Department of Education rules related to standards and best practices for public preschool programs.

LD 131 An Act To Amend the Laws Related to Public Funding of Charter Schools PUBLIC 54 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-38

This bill establishes provisions to fund public charter schools that are authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission beginning in fiscal year 2015-16.

1. The bill establishes provisions that calculate the total allocation of funds to be provided under general purpose aid for local schools for public charter schools that are authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission and establishes that the Commissioner of Education must adjust the operating allocation calculated for public charter schools by multiplying the operating allocation by the appropriate transition percentage in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671, subsection 7.
2. It also provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2015-16, the Commissioner of Education's recommendations to the Governor and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for funding levels under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act must include funding level computations for the total operating allocation of funds to public charter schools authorized by the commission in accordance with the provisions of this legislation.
3. It establishes a moratorium on the approval, authorization and execution of contracts for virtual public charter schools by the commission, and it provides that the moratorium applies to the period between the effective date of this legislation and one year following the effective date of this legislation.
4. It requires the Maine Charter School Commission to review the virtual public charter school models in other states and to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education