

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.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

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