

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

STAFF:

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
CRAIG NALE, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

MEMBERS:

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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.

3. It requires that the Commissioner of Education and the Governor notify the governing board of each public charter school of the estimated amount of state contributions and the recommended funding level computations that must be allocated to the public charter school pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683-B to provide that these estimated contributions must be posted on the Department of Education's publicly accessible website.
4. It provides that the calculation of the total allocation and state contribution for the EPS per-pupil rate for a public charter school is different when only one school administrative unit sends students to a public charter school as compared to the EPS per-pupil rate when there is more than one school administrative unit sending students to the public charter school.
5. It provides that the basic student count used for the determination of the EPS per-pupil rates for public charter schools is the October 1st student count of the most recent calendar year prior to the year of funding.
6. It provides that a public charter school may receive payment for students residing in the unorganized territory and provides that a special education student residing in the unorganized territory must be treated the same as a resident student from a school administrative unit for purposes of special education costs.
7. It requires that up to three percent of the amount the total allocation and state contribution for public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission must be withheld and transferred to the commission in accordance with the provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 2405, subsection 5, paragraph B.
8. Finally, it requires that virtual public charter schools and authorizers include the Legislature among the recipients of certain of their reports required by law.

Public Law 2015, chapter 54 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2015.

LD 151	An Act To Protect Public Health in the Maine Community College System	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN MILLETT		

This bill prohibits smoking on the grounds of any campus of the Maine Community College System. The bill provides an effective date of October 15, 2015 and an exception to the smoking ban for smoking undertaken as part of a religious ceremony or as part of a cultural activity by a defined group.

LD 152	An Act To Encourage Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation To Be Taught in High School	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL R	ONTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This bill directs the Department of Education to develop a cardiopulmonary resuscitation model training program for school administrative units to offer to school personnel, secondary school students, parents and members of the public. In developing the training program, the department is authorized to seek collaboration and support in the form of money, staffing and expertise from organizations with the purpose of promoting cardiac health. The department is directed to encourage school administrative units to implement the training program.

**LD 201 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101:
Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a
Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education**

**RESOLVE 25
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-180

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-180)

This amendment provides that final adoption of portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Education, is authorized contingent upon the department's making specified changes to the proposed rule.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 25 provides that final adoption of portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Education, is authorized contingent upon the department's making specified changes to the proposed rule.

Resolve 2015, chapter 25 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 11, 2015.

**LD 215 An Act To Improve Student Retention in Maine's Postsecondary
Institutions**

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND MAKER	OTP-AM	S-21

This bill directs Jobs for Maine's Graduates, a state-authorized nonprofit corporation, to provide mentoring and counseling services, course guidance and graduation planning, peer support services and financial guidance to up to 200 students and at up to four postsecondary institutions in the State for the purpose of significantly increasing the percentage of eligible students who obtain a postsecondary degree. Eligible students must have previously been enrolled in a Jobs for Maine's Graduates high school program, been in or currently be in foster care or have earned a high school equivalency diploma within the five years prior to obtaining these services.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-21)

This amendment removes the limitations included in the bill on the number of postsecondary education institutions and the number of students that may be served by Jobs for Maine's Graduates as authorized by the bill.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.