

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

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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

LD 218 **An Act To Support Fair Financing in Charter Schools and School Administrative Units**

ONTP

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

This bill provides that per-pupil allocations paid by a school administrative unit to a public charter school must be returned to the school administrative unit of the student's residence, on a prorated basis, if the student discontinues enrollment at the public charter school and returns to the school administrative unit during the school year. The bill also changes the allocation of a provision of law to clarify when a school administrative unit needs to transfer funds to a charter school for certain programs.

LD 231 **An Act To Ensure That Schoolchildren with Dyslexia Receive the Assistance Needed**

PUBLIC 338

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MORRISON MILLETT	OTP-AM	H-279 S-327 HAMPER

This bill defines dyslexia as a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It requires school administrative units to conduct screenings of students from kindergarten to grade two for dyslexia, except that, for the 2016-2017 school year, school administrative units must screen students from kindergarten to grade three. It requires school administrative units to screen certain transfer and older students. It also creates the position of dyslexia consultant within the Department of Education and provides for the dyslexia consultant to provide school administrative units with dyslexia professional awareness training.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-279)

This amendment replaces the bill. It defines "dyslexia" and requires school administrative units to screen for dyslexia only those students from kindergarten to grade two who have certain difficulties, as noted by a classroom teacher, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. It also requires the Department of Education to hire a dyslexia coordinator by October 1, 2015 and describes the dyslexia coordinator's duties. The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-327)

This amendment strikes the General Fund appropriations from Committee Amendment "A." This amendment also adds a mandate preamble.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 338 defines "dyslexia" and requires school administrative units to screen for dyslexia only those students from kindergarten to grade two who have certain difficulties, as noted by a classroom teacher, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. It also requires the Department of Education to hire a dyslexia coordinator by October 1, 2015, who assists the Department of Education in complying with the dyslexia screening requirements and required general education interventions and develops a plan to implement dyslexia awareness training for teachers, implements professional development in evidence-based screening practices and identifies needs of schools for implementing intervention strategies for reading and language-based learning difficulties.