

# 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

127<sup>TH</sup> 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 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 235**

**An Act To Adjust Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of the Department of Education, the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine State Museum and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015**

**PUBLIC 7  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROTUNDO HAMPER	OTP-AM	H-16

Part A of the bill adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Part B of the bill further adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Part C of the bill provides for the transfer of the payment for students who attend public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission from the resident school administrative unit to the State. The cost of these public charter schools is included in the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 beginning in fiscal year 2015-16.

Part D of the bill revises the amount of financing agreements for portable computer systems for students and educators from up to \$69,696,000 to up to \$95,000,000 and the interest costs from up to \$5,575,680 to up to \$7,600,000. The amount has been revised to include those costs borne by the school administrative units.

Part E of the bill adjusts appropriations from the General Fund for the expenditures of the Maine Arts Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Part F of the bill adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Maine State Museum for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-16)**

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment strikes Part C from the bill. Part C proposed to provide for the transfer of the payment for students who attend public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission from the resident school administrative unit to the State.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 7 makes the following changes to the funding appropriated or allocated for certain education and cultural affairs programs in fiscal year 2014-15.

1. It adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.
2. It further adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.
3. It revises the amount of financing agreements for portable computer systems for students and educators from up to \$69,696,000 to up to \$95,000,000 and the interest costs from up to \$5,575,680 to up to \$7,600,000. The amount

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

has been revised to include those costs borne by the school administrative units.

4. It adjusts appropriations from the General Fund for the expenditures of the Maine Arts Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

5. It adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Maine State Museum for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Public Law 2015, chapter 7 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 1, 2015.

**LD 240      An Act To Amend the School Funding Formula**

**ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to amend the school funding formula.

**LD 261      Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine State Museum Commission To Study the Replacement of Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection**

**RESOLVE 51**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON	OTP-AM	S-34

This resolve establishes the Commission to Install a Statue of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain in the National Statuary Hall Collection. The commission is directed to take steps necessary to result in the placement of a statue of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol. This statue will replace that of William King, Maine's first governor, the ownership of which may be transferred to the State, subject to the approval of the United States Congress's Joint Committee on the Library. The commission is directed to seek outside funding to fully fund the costs associated with carrying out the intent of the resolve.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-34)**

This amendment replaces the resolve and directs the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine State Museum Commission to study the public's interest in replacing one or both statues contributed by Maine currently in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol and the procedures for and the feasibility of accomplishing that process. The commissions are required to report their findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2016, and the committee is authorized to report out a bill related to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2015, chapter 51 directs the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine State Museum Commission to study the public's interest in replacing one or both statues contributed by Maine currently in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol and the procedures for and the feasibility of accomplishing that process. It requires the commissions to report their findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2016, and it authorizes the committee to report out a