

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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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

bill related to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

LD 265 An Act To Require the State To Fund Public Charter Schools ONTP

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

This bill requires the State to provide full funding of public charter schools.

LD 300 An Act To Appropriate Funds To Help Restore the Historic Wood Island Life Saving Station in Kittery Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HILL RYKERSON	OTP-AM	S-2

This bill provides one-time funding to the Wood Island Life Saving Station Association for the planning, design and restoration of the Wood Island Life Saving Station in the Town of Kittery.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-2)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

While this bill was not enacted, the funding provision proposed in this bill was included in Public Law 2015, chapter 267, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

LD 305 An Act To Authorize Circus Conservatory of America To Grant Baccalaureate Degrees CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT MAKER		

This bill authorizes Circus Conservatory of America to grant the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 306 Resolve, To Prevent Overpayment for Virtual Education ONTP

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

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

This resolve requires the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, to design an essential programs and services funding model for virtual public charter schools that reflects evidence-based, appropriate costs to reduce the current overpayment made to virtual public charter schools for services, teachers and facilities that are not actually provided by the virtual public charter schools. This resolve requires the Department of Education to report the new funding model for virtual public charter schools to the Legislature by June 1, 2015.

LD 311 An Act To Improve Attendance at Public Elementary Schools

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY BROOKS	OTP-AM	S-22

This bill gives school boards the option of reducing the minimum age required for school attendance from seven years of age to five years of age. The bill also provides that students who are at least five years of age and enrolled in a public day school are subject to the same provisions regarding truancy as students who are seven years of age or older and who are required to attend a public day school.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-22)

This amendment strikes the bill and instead provides that a person five years of age or older who is enrolled in public day school is required to attend during the time it is in regular session. This amendment provides that a person five years of age or older and under seven years of age may withdraw from school at any time within the 45 days after enrollment, and may withdraw from school after 45 days after enrollment after consultation with the school board or its designee. This amendment provides that students who are at least five years of age and enrolled in a public day school are subject to the same provisions regarding truancy as students who are at least seven years of age and have not completed grade six who are required to attend a public day school. This amendment clarifies that a person five years of age or older and under seven years of age is not required to meet the alternatives to attendance requirements set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 5001-A, subsection 3.

LD 314 An Act To Amend the Administration of the Transportation System in the Department of Education

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill amends the law allowing the Commissioner of Education to pay costs attributable to transportation requirements under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and the law governing the transportation of public school students, including the costs of one Education Specialist III position, by changing that position to an Administrator position.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-56)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment changes the position proposed in the bill from an "Administrator" position to a "professional" position.