

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

formation of a working group to allow the working group to be convened and finish its work by the April 30, 2015 deadline.

LD 391 Resolve, To Create a State-run Virtual Academy Providing Maine Students with Access to Online Learning through Their Existing School Districts **ONTP**

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

This resolve does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder group to develop plans to establish online and digital learning opportunities, which may include a state-administered virtual academy and a state-administered digital learning exchange, that provide all public schools in the State access to online instruction, online courses and digital learning resources for their students.
2. It directs the stakeholder group, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to complete the design of online and digital learning opportunities for Maine students and submit a report, including findings and any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 1, 2015.
3. It directs the stakeholder group, in collaboration with school administrative units in the State, to develop a memorandum of understanding with the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School in New Hampshire to provide Maine secondary school students with access to virtual learning programs during the 2015-2016 school year.

LD 392 An Act To Eliminate the Maine School Performance Grading System **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| CHENETTE VALENTINO | ONTP OTP | |

This bill prohibits the Department of Education from using a school performance grading system that uses a single letter grade to measure school performance.

LD 393 An Act To Create a Unified Board of Higher Education **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ROTUNDO KATZ | ONTP | |

This bill replaces the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System and the Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy with the Board of Trustees of Higher Education to provide a unified body for the governance of those institutions.

1. Part A makes changes to the law to replace some select references to the individual boards of trustees with references to the unified board and enacts a new chapter in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A with provisions

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that establish the new unified board.

2. Part B establishes a transition team to recommend further changes to the law to fully accomplish the transition to the unified board. The transition team will specifically recommend changes to determine the qualifications of trustees and the powers and duties of the unified board in a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The report of the transition team must also recommend changes to the administration or organization of and the existing law governing the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College System to ensure the efficient operation under the unified board and to avoid any potential conflicts with the law establishing the unified board. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature based upon the report.

LD 417 An Act Regarding Measures To Ensure Support for Students' Financial Literacy PUBLIC 64

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| POULIOT LANGLEY | OTP-AM | H-50 |

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to develop methods to measure students' proficiency in financial literacy for those students taking part in financial literacy education pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 254, subsection 13 in order to help ensure they can demonstrate proficiency prior to graduation. The Commissioner of Education shall submit by January 13, 2016 a report on the measures and any suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-50)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill to direct the Commissioner of Education to identify best practices to support students' financial literacy for those students taking part in financial literacy education pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 254, subsection 13. The amendment also requires the Commissioner of Education to submit, by January 13, 2016, the 2016 annual report on the strategies and resources available to implement an integrated model for instruction in personal finance for use in secondary schools and the best practices available to support students' financial literacy.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 64 directs the Commissioner of Education to identify best practices to support students' financial literacy for those students taking part in financial literacy education pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 254, subsection 13. The amendment also requires the Commissioner of Education to submit, by January 13, 2016, the 2016 annual report on the strategies and resources available to implement an integrated model for instruction in personal finance for use in secondary schools and the best practices available to support students' financial literacy.

LD 418 Resolve, To Study the Use of Social Impact Bonds as a Funding Mechanism for Public Education Programs in Maine RESOLVE 52

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| POULIOT LANGLEY | OTP-AM ONTP | H-10 |

This resolve requires the University of Maine System's Education Research Institute to study the use of social impact bonds to fund extended learning programs and prekindergarten programs. A social impact bond generally