

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

MEMBERS:

SEN. BRIAN D. LANGLEY, CHAIR
SEN. PETER E. EDGECOMB
SEN. REBECCA J. MILLETT

REP. VICTORIA P. KORNFELD, CHAIR
REP. MATTHEA E. LARSEN DAUGHTRY
REP. BRIAN L. HUBBELL
REP. RICHARD R. FARNSWORTH
REP. RYAN D. TIPPING-SPITZ
REP. TERESA S. PIERCE
REP. JOYCE A. MAKER
REP. MICHAEL D. MCCLELLAN
REP. MATTHEW G. POULIOT
REP. PAUL A. STEARNS

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

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

LD 728 An Act To Limit the Amount of Money a Municipality May Spend on Education ONTP

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

This bill provides that, beginning with the 2016 tax year, it is the goal and policy of the State that the amount of property taxes distributed by a municipality for education under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act may not exceed 55 percent of the state valuation of the municipality's property subject to the valuation filed with the Secretary of State. The bill also provides that a municipality is not required to pay more than 55 percent of the funds raised by local property taxes for the municipality's required contribution to the school administrative unit's total cost of education unless a majority of the elected officials of the municipality approve raising and expending funds appropriated through local taxation for educational purposes that exceed 55 percent of the state valuation of the municipality's property.

LD 749 An Act To Ensure Integrity in Students' Proficiency ONTP

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

This bill provides that a teacher other than the teacher involved in the instruction of the students taking an examination in the subject area of the examination must administer and evaluate the results of the examination when it is used to determine proficiency in the areas described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 2.

LD 763 An Act To Change the Budget Approval Process for Alternative Organizational Structures PUBLIC 286

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL BURNS	OTP-AM	H-400

This bill changes the school budget approval process for alternative organizational structures. Current law requires that a change in who approves a budget must be approved at the next statewide election. The bill requires that such a determination of who approves a budget must be approved at a special meeting authorized by a majority of the governing body of the alternative organizational structure rather than at the next statewide election.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-400)

This amendment makes changes to the provisions in the bill that apply to the school budget approval process for alternative organizational structures. Current law requires that a change in who approves a budget must be approved at the next statewide election. The bill requires that such a determination of who approves a budget must be approved at a special meeting authorized by a majority of the governing body of the alternative organizational structure rather than at the next statewide election. The amendment provides that the determination of the school budget approval process must be approved at the next regular election or special election of all of the member entities of the alternative organizational structure. The amendment also provides that a referendum authorized for this purpose must be called and conducted by the governing body of the alternative organizational structure in accordance with the procedures for calling and conducting a referendum in a regional school unit as set forth in the

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, under section 1502, but not including subsection 2, and section 1503.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 286 makes changes to the current law that applies to the school budget approval process for alternative organizational structures. This law provides that the determination of the school budget approval process must be approved at the next regular election or special election of all of the member entities of the alternative organizational structure. The law also provides that a referendum authorized for this purpose must be called and conducted by the governing body of the alternative organizational structure in accordance with the procedures for calling and conducting a referendum in a regional school unit as set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, under section 1502, but not including subsection 2, and section 1503.

LD 764	Resolve, To Impose a One-year Delay on the Use of Standardized Tests To Evaluate Teachers	Veto Sustained
---------------	--	-----------------------

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCELWEE MILLETT	ONTP OTP-AM	H-264 H-354 KORNFIELD

This resolve prohibits school administrative units from using the Maine Educational Assessment for Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy standardized tests administered prior to the 2017-18 school year to measure educator effectiveness.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-264)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment changes the resolve's provision from a two-year delay to a one-year delay prohibiting school administrative units from using the Maine Educational Assessment for Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy standardized tests to measure educator effectiveness.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-354)

This amendment removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the resolve.

LD 784	An Act To Authorize a Revenue Bond for a Student Loan Reduction Plan	CARRIED OVER
---------------	---	---------------------

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

This bill authorizes the Finance Authority of Maine to issue revenue bonds in the amount of \$40,000,000 to fund a student loan reduction plan in order to allow residents of the State to refinance student loans.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-228)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, strikes the bill's proposal to provide \$40,000,000 in funds from a revenue bond and replaces the bill with a proposal to provide \$5,000,000 by a General Fund bond issue to implement a student loan reduction plan administered by the Finance Authority of Maine that will allow residents of the State to refinance or consolidate student loans.

This bill was committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 994 as amended by H-504.