

# 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

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 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*

4. Providing competitive grants to regional district partnerships and nonprofit organizations to address statewide priorities and involve the State's business and higher education communities in delivering consistent messages about standards and proficiency, create a statewide research and development process to solve complex implementation problems and provide on-site consultation in curriculum, instruction, assessment and organizational change, increase local knowledge in key implementation areas and build local support systems and services; and

5. Requiring the Department of Education to contract with an external organization through a request for proposals process to develop, administer and track the competitive grant process and report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs, the Commissioner of Education and the public on the progress of the implementation of a standards-based system of education and emerging needs as the needs arise.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-292)**

This amendment strikes and replaces the concept draft with a bill that directs the Department of Education to annually collect and report data on the progress of public schools and public charter schools towards the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas, including the number of students graduating with proficiency-based diplomas and the number of students awarded proficiency in each of the content areas and in each of the guiding principles of the system of learning results established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 367 directs the Department of Education to annually collect and report data on the progress of public schools and public charter schools towards the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas, including the number of students graduating with proficiency-based diplomas and the number of students awarded proficiency in each of the content areas and in each of the guiding principles of the system of learning results established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209.

**LD 852      An Act To Establish Maine's School Beverage Standards      ONTP**

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

This bill limits the beverages public schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program may sell to water, 100 percent fruit or vegetable juice with no added sugar, no-fat or low-fat milk, including flavored milk and sparkling water with natural flavoring.

**LD 853      An Act To Allow Secondary Schools To Grant Certificates of Academic Proficiency      PUBLIC 342**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-294 S-324 HAMPER

This bill authorizes school administrative units to award certificates of content area proficiency to students who demonstrate proficiency in each content area of the system of learning results.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-294)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, provides that if a school administrative unit awards a certificate of content area proficiency to a student who demonstrates proficiency in a particular content area of the

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system of learning results, the school administrative unit is required to report its issuance of certificates of content area proficiency to the Department of Education.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-324)**

This amendment strikes the provision in the committee amendment to the bill that requires the Department of Education to collect and aggregate data reported by school administrative units that submit reports of certificates of content area proficiency issued to students who demonstrate proficiency. The amendment replaces this requirement with permissive language that allows the department to collect and report aggregate data reported by school administrative units.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 342 authorizes school administrative units to award certificates of content area proficiency to students who demonstrate proficiency in each content area of the system of learning results. The law provides that if a school administrative unit awards a certificate of content area proficiency to a student who demonstrates proficiency in a particular content area of the system of learning results, the school administrative unit is required to report its issuance of certificates of content area proficiency to the Department of Education. The law also permits the department to collect and report aggregate data reported by school administrative units that submit reports of certificates of content area proficiency issued to students who demonstrate proficiency.

**LD 876      An Act To Encourage Equity in School Funding by Limiting a Municipality's Contribution Based on Its Student Enrollment      ONTP**

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

In the case of a school administrative district, community school district or regional school unit composed of more than one municipality, this bill limits the municipal contribution to the total cost of education to the essential programs and services, EPS, per-pupil rate multiplied by the municipality's most recent calendar year average pupil count.

**LD 877      Resolve, To Study the Fort Norumbega Site in Bucksport      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL R ROSEN	ONTP	

This resolve requires the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to provide assistance to the Town of Bucksport to study the site in the Town of Bucksport that is considered to be the site of a French-built fort called Fort Norumbega.

**LD 878      An Act To Support College Affordability in Maine      PUBLIC 103**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIPPING-SPITZ	OTP-AM	H-108

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to enact measures designed to reduce the costs associated with higher education in order to encourage resident students to remain in the State to attend