

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

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.

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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

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school, and nonresident students to come to the State to attend school.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-108)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. It allows the Finance Authority of Maine to provide consolidation loans for student debt of Maine students as part of its existing Higher Education Loan and Loan Insurance Program.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 103 allows the Finance Authority of Maine to provide consolidation loans for student debt of Maine students as part of its existing Higher Education Loan and Loan Insurance Program.

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|
| LD 933 | An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine | Died On Adjournment |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ALFOND HICKMAN | OTP-AM | S-147 |

This bill implements the recommendations of the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine as follows.

1. The bill establishes the Commission To End Student Hunger, an ongoing commission of 17 appointed members, which is directed to work to implement a five-year plan to end student hunger, is authorized to conduct a statewide summit of state leaders to end student hunger and is required to advise four hunger coordinators who will assist in implementing the five-year plan.
2. The bill provides that the full costs of school nutrition are subsidizable costs in the state education funding formula.
3. The bill directs the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate to reduce student hunger. The bill requires the two departments to meet quarterly to collaborate on child hunger and nutrition programs. The bill requires the two departments to provide quarterly reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and to the Commission To End Student Hunger. The bill requires the two departments to expand access to departmental data and to provide each school administrative unit and school with analyses of its existing child nutrition programs and their funding and federal funding not being used. The bill requires child nutrition data to be publicly available on the websites of the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a grant program to assist schools and school administrative units in ending student hunger.
4. The bill requires the Department of Education to convene a working group by March 1, 2015 to review the opportunities and challenges of the community eligibility provision administered by the United States Department of Agriculture and study best practices and barriers related to the community eligibility provision and make recommendations to the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill requires the Department of Education to submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor by April 30, 2015.
5. The bill requires the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to encourage the congressional delegation of the State to make participation in federal meals and snacks programs for students easier for school administrative units and nonprofit organizations and to make administration of the programs easier for the departments.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-147)

The amendment reduces the number of members of the Commission To End Student Hunger from 17 to 11 and