

# 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*

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

***Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs***

provides that the commission is staffed by the Department of Education through the position created in Part C of the bill.

The amendment removes the provision of the bill that includes the full costs of school nutrition as subsidizable costs in the school funding formula.

The amendment removes the provision of the bill that directs the Department of Education to establish a grant program to help end student hunger.

The amendment removes the provision of the bill that directs the Department of Education to convene a working group regarding the federal community eligibility provision administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

While this bill was not enacted, the provisions proposed in this amendment were 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 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 939      An Act To Increase Transparency in the University of Maine System      ONTP**  
**Regarding Procurement and Administrative Costs**

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

The purpose of this bill is to enhance transparency in funding the University of Maine System. This bill requires that, beginning in fiscal year 2016-17, appropriations and allocations in the state budget document and the budget bills for the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System must be separated into two separate line items: one reflecting those amounts to be allocated to the individual campuses of the University of Maine System and one reflecting those amounts to be used by the University of Maine System for administrative costs. This bill also requires that the terms and conditions of invitations for bid proposals by the University of Maine System for purchases of \$10,000 or more be posted on a publicly accessible website.

**LD 956      An Act To Create Community Schools      Died On  
                 Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT KORNFELD	OTP-AM	S-131

This bill authorizes a school board to designate an existing school or establish a new school to be a community school that participates with community partners to provide various educational and social services to students, families and community members. The bill provides the steps a school board must complete in order to establish a new community school, including conducting a community needs audit, conducting a community resource assessment and developing a community school plan, and requires that a school board that designates an existing school as a community school must also conduct a school operations and instructional audit.

The bill requires a school board that establishes a community school to report annually to the Department of Education on the school's progress and provides that the Commissioner of Education must submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters that