

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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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.

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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 KORNFIELD	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

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includes an evaluation of the community schools in operation during the prior school year. The bill also authorizes the Department of Education to provide funding, including funds allocated for a five-year pilot project beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, to support the implementation of community schools.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-131)

This amendment reduces the number of schools the Department of Education is authorized to designate for the purpose of the pilot project as community schools from five as in the bill to three. The amendment reduces the maximum annual state allocations for community schools in the pilot project authorized under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 333 from \$250,000 as in the bill to \$150,000. The amendment also removes the reporting requirements of school boards and the Commissioner of Education regarding community schools that are required in the bill. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

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 Expenditure of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the 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 968 An Act To Expand Access to Affordable Higher Education and To INDEF PP
Strengthen Workforce Development**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY BRYANT		

This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$1,300,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2015-16 to the Southern Maine Community College to increase economic development and provide support for operations and key educational programs at the Midcoast Campus at Brunswick Landing.

While this bill was not enacted, the funding provision proposed in this bill was amended and 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 the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

This bill was not referred to a committee.

LD 981 An Act To Establish a Veterinary School CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN J		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to establish a veterinary school.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.