

# 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

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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 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***

**LD 1118      **Resolve, To Establish the Study Commission on the Social Emotional Learning and Development of Maine's Young Children**      **ONTP****

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

This resolve creates the Study Commission on the Social Emotional Learning and Development of Maine's Young Children to promote the social emotional learning and development of young children and reduce expulsions in early child care and education settings in the State by making an inventory of policies, rules, funding and services regarding early child care and education in the State and making recommendations, including suggested legislation, to strengthen the support for young children's social emotional learning and development and to address young children's behavioral needs.

**LD 1141      **An Act To Promote Degree Completion by Maine Community College Students**      **Died On Adjournment****

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAUGHTRY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-262

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to implement a comprehensive strategy to increase the affordability of tuition at state public universities and colleges for Maine residents, thereby increasing the graduation rate from those state public institutions of higher education, and to attract to and keep in Maine young professionals. The comprehensive strategy may include, but is not limited to:

1. Establishing a textbook scholarship program, in coordination with the public institutions of higher education to provide scholarships for the purchase of textbooks at those institutions. The scholarships would be available to graduates of Maine high schools who have a grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale;
2. Establishing scholarships or providing incentives for degree completion with agreements to remain in the State after graduation for specified periods. Under this program, a full scholarship for the fourth and final year of school at a Maine public institution of higher education would be provided to students who agree to work in the State for a certain period of time following graduation;
3. Requiring the Department of Education and the Finance Authority of Maine cooperatively to issue low-interest student loans to students attending a public or private institution of higher education in this State who meet certain criteria, such as financial need, academic merit, graduating within four years or agreeing to work in public service for a certain period after graduation;
4. Requiring the Finance Authority of Maine to establish additional tax credits, state grants and other forms of financial aid for higher education for residents of this State who are graduates from a Maine public institution of higher education and an education loan repayment program for all graduates of an institution of higher education who are residents of this State;
5. Establishing a loan repayment program for graduates employed in certain high-demand fields in this State;
6. Establishing goals for college graduation attainment for the next 25 years;

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

- 7. Exploring the development of an entity, such as a board of regents, to oversee higher education in this State in order to best serve the higher education needs of the residents and businesses of this State; and
- 8. Establishing a pilot project, based on Oregon's "Pay Forward, Pay Back" model, under which a student enrolled in a public institution of higher education, in lieu of paying tuition or fees, contracts to pay the State a certain percentage of the student's annual income following graduation for a specified number of years. The pilot project would eventually replace the current system of charging a resident of the State tuition and fees for enrollment at a state public institution of higher education. The pilot project would:
  - A. Allow a student who is a resident of the State and who qualifies for admission to an institution to enroll in the institution without paying tuition or fees;
  - B. Provide that, in lieu of paying tuition or fees, the student must sign a binding contract to pay to the State or the institution for a specified number of years a certain percentage of the student's annual adjusted gross income upon graduation from the institution;
  - C. Specify the number of years and the percentage of annual adjusted gross income for contracts at each participating institution and base the specifications on research to date; and
  - D. Establish a funding source for the first 15 to 20 years of the pilot project and a revolving fund into which payments made under the pilot project are deposited to provide long-term funding.

A pilot project may include variations by specific institution depending on the total cost of education at the institution, the portion of the cost that is paid by the State, the number of years of student repayment specified in the contract and the percentage of annual adjusted gross income specified in the contract.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-262)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the concept draft with a bill to appropriate funds from the General Fund to the Maine Community College System for adding College Navigator positions and expanding student work study opportunities.

<b>LD 1152</b>	<b>An Act To Amend the Definition of "Property Fiscal Capacity" in the School Funding Law To Address Inequities Affecting Municipalities Experiencing Significant Reductions in Value</b>	<b>ONTP</b>
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY PATRICK	ONTP	

Current law defines a municipality's fiscal capacity for the purpose of calculating the local share and state share of the cost of public kindergarten to grade 12 education as the average state valuation for the municipality over a three-year period prior to the most recently certified state valuation. In order to avoid overstating the fiscal capacity of a municipality that has experienced a significant loss in value of 2 percent or more attributable to a single taxpayer, this bill resets the three-year period to average state valuations for those municipalities going forward, beginning with the first year the municipality's certified state valuation reflects that significant loss in value.