

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

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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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LD 1153 An Act To Restore Local Control of Education to Towns

ONTP

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

This bill repeals the laws governing proficiency-based graduation requirements. It provides that a school administrative unit may elect to opt out of the so-called Common Core State Standards and statewide student assessments. It provides that a school administrative unit may establish a method of transferring funds to a public charter school that is an alternative to the current method. It makes it optional, instead of mandatory, for a school administrative unit to develop and implement a performance evaluation and professional growth system for educators.

LD 1173 An Act To Improve School Administrative Efficiency and Expand Capacity for Professional Growth for Educators with Regional Collaborative Programs and Services

PUBLIC 251

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-293

This bill amends the education statutes related to regional collaboration between school administrative units to deliver certain administrative, instructional and noninstructional functions. The bill facilitates the transformation of the public education system in the State by providing grant funding from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to support regional collaborative agreements between two or more school administrative units and, whenever possible, with local and county governments and State Government or with any public institution of higher education or nonprofit corporation to achieve efficiencies and reduce costs in the delivery of collaborative programs and support services related to:

1. Standards that guide curriculum and instruction and promote student advancement and graduation based on student demonstration of proficiency in meeting educational standards pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A; and
2. Professional development standards that foster access to professional development, training and support for teachers and principals and expand opportunities for professional growth for teachers and principals pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 508.

The bill also requires the Department of Education to provisionally adopt amendments to rules established for the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services in order to align the awarding of grant funds to school administrative units with the provisions amended by this bill beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-293)

The amendment makes the following changes to the bill:

1. It removes the functions proposed in the bill for inclusion in the regional collaboration agreements included in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 114;
2. It restores the statutory provision in Title 20-A, chapter 114-A that provides grant funding to one or more school administrative units, municipalities and counties from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to

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support the improvement of educational opportunities and student achievement;

3. It amends the criteria established for providing grant funds from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to expand access to professional development, training and support for teachers and school administrators by requiring that priority must be given to high-quality professional development initiatives aligned with evidence-based best practices that can be linked to improvements in student learning and expansion of opportunities for professional growth for teachers and principals pursuant to the educator effectiveness provisions established in Title 20-A, chapter 508; and

4. It removes the requirement that the Department of Education amend the rules established for the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 251 facilitates the transformation of the public education system in the State by providing grant funding from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to support regional collaborative agreements between one or more school administrative units and, whenever possible, with local and county governments and State Government or with any public institution of higher education or nonprofit corporation to achieve efficiencies and reduce costs in the delivery of collaborative programs and support services related to:

1. Standards that guide curriculum and instruction and promote student advancement and graduation based on student demonstration of proficiency in meeting educational standards pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A; and

2. Professional development standards that foster access to professional development, training and support for teachers and principals and expand opportunities for professional growth for teachers and principals pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 508.

LD 1180 An Act To Require Education in Public Preschool Programs and Elementary Schools Regarding Child Sexual Abuse

PUBLIC 292

Sponsor(s)

MAKER
DIAMOND

Committee Report

OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

H-353

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop model policies and a program of technical assistance for child sexual abuse response policies and reporting procedures and for age-appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse detection and prevention that may be used as part of the basic course of study in public preschool programs and elementary schools. The bill requires the Department of Education to make the model policies and technical assistance program available no later than March 1, 2016 to assist school administrative units with the implementation of child sexual abuse education programs and child sexual abuse response policies and reporting procedures in public preschool programs and kindergarten to grade five.

The bill requires that, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the basic course of study for elementary schools must include age-appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse detection and prevention for all students enrolled in public preschool programs and kindergarten to grade five. The bill requires a school administrative unit that operates a public preschool program or an elementary school to develop a prevention plan, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, that includes a written local policy and an implementation plan for the child sexual abuse education programs and child sexual abuse response policies and reporting procedures.

The bill also requires the commissioner to review the content standards and performance indicators for the content area of health education, including age-appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse detection and prevention during the 2015-2016 school year as part of the commissioner's five-year review cycle of the content standards and