

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**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

**STAFF:**

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
CRAIG NALE, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. BRIAN D. LANGLEY, CHAIR  
SEN. PETER E. EDGECOMB  
SEN. REBECCA J. MILLETT

REP. VICTORIA P. KORNFELD, CHAIR  
REP. MATTHEA E. LARSEN DAUGHTRY  
REP. BRIAN L. HUBBELL  
REP. RICHARD R. FARNSWORTH  
REP. RYAN D. TIPPING-SPITZ  
REP. TERESA S. PIERCE  
REP. JOYCE A. MAKER  
REP. MICHAEL D. MCCLELLAN  
REP. MATTHEW G. POULIOT  
REP. PAUL A. STEARNS

# 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*

**LD 1230 An Act To Create a Digital Content Library for Education**

**PUBLIC 372  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY HUBBELL	OTP-AM	S-146

This bill creates a digital portal for education, which makes digital texts and online courses available to all students through a common statewide platform administered by the Commissioner of Education. This bill allows providers of digital texts and online courses to install them onto the portal at their own expense and set the fee charged for enrollment in or subscription to the digital text or online course. The commissioner is required to maintain a catalog of available digital texts and online courses.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-146)**

This amendment replaces the bill, which establishes a digital portal for education, and instead creates a digital content library, which makes digital educational content and learning resources available to all students through a method determined by the Commissioner of Education and based upon the recommendations of a digital content library advisory group.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 372 creates a digital content library, which makes digital educational content and learning resources that further the State's educational initiatives available to all students through a method determined by the Commissioner of Education and based upon the recommendations of a digital content library advisory group.

Public Law 2015, chapter 372 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 16, 2015.

**LD 1235 Resolve, To Strengthen Standards-based Diplomas**

**RESOLVE 41**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND HUBBELL	OTP-AM	S-206

This bill changes the date by which the Department of Education's working group is required to develop and submit for review standards, assessments and assessment criteria for determining student proficiency as part of the development of a standards-based system of education. The bill also requires the working group to begin meeting as soon as practicable and that all meetings be open to the public.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-206)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and creates the Maine Proficiency Education Council to study and make recommendations for a five-year plan for the full implementation of proficiency-based graduation requirements across the State in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A. The Commissioner of Education shall submit a report including the recommendations of the council to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 1, 2016.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2015, chapter 41 creates the Maine Proficiency Education Council to study and make recommendations for a five-year plan for the full implementation of proficiency-based graduation requirements across the State in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A. The Commissioner of Education must

*Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

submit a report including the recommendations of the council to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 1, 2016.

**LD 1249     An Act To Bring Equity to the State Portion of the Education Funding Formula as It Applies to Regional School Unit No. 35     ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The purpose of this bill is to bring equity to the school funding formula as it applies to Regional School Unit No. 35, comprising the towns of Eliot and South Berwick. The bill would change the current formula for distribution of the costs for education within Regional School Unit No. 35 in a manner that would take into consideration unequal changes in property valuation, median income and population. The bill would phase in the changes to each municipality's share of costs over a period of five years in order to reduce the fiscal impact on the municipalities.

**LD 1250     An Act To Reform Public Charter Schools     Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GIDEON MILLETT	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill amends the laws governing public charter schools by:

1. Requiring the Department of Education to post the annual audit of a public charter school and information concerning every contract entered into by a public charter school on a publicly accessible portion of the department's website;
2. Requiring a public charter school to provide the Department of Education with information on every contract executed by the public charter school, including leases, employment contracts or agreements with outside providers of materials or supplies or maintenance, administrative, food or educational services;
3. Requiring that notice for governing board meetings of public charter schools be posted on a publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website at least 30 days before the meeting, that governing board meetings be open to the public and the governing board take accurate minutes of the meeting and post those minutes on a publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website within 48 hours after adjournment of the meeting; and
4. Prohibiting a public charter school from accepting a gift or grant that is conditional upon the removal of a staff member or teacher of the public charter school.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-152)**

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment strikes the following provisions in the bill:

1. The provisions that require that notice for a meeting of a governing board of a public charter school be posted on a publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website at least 30 days before the meeting, that a governing board meeting be open to the public and that the governing board take accurate minutes of the meeting