

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

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.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Committee Amendment "A" (H-314)

This amendment provides that:

1. The Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering may implement the plan established for operating the magnet school pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 8236, subsection 2 during the 2017-2018 school year;
2. All powers, duties and authority of the school cease 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature; and
3. The school's board of trustees is required to provide a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2018 on the commencement and operations of the school. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill relating to the school to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature, which may include but is not limited to a repeal of the provision of law that terminates the powers, duties and authority of the school 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 363 establishes the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering as a public magnet school for the purpose of providing certain high-achieving high school students with a challenging educational experience. The law provides that:

1. The Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering may implement the plan established for operating the magnet school pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 8236, subsection 2 during the 2017-2018 school year;
2. All powers, duties and authority of the school cease 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature; and
3. The school's board of trustees is required to provide a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2018 on the commencement and operations of the school. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill relating to the school to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature, which may include but is not limited to a repeal of the provision of law that terminates the powers, duties and authority of the school 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

LD 1281

An Act To Reduce the Burden on Local Communities of Transportation Costs for Special Needs Students

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

HAMPER
GINZLER

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill proposes to limit the costs for special education transportation services for each school administrative unit that incurs special education costs that exceed \$20,000 for transportation services required to assist a child with a disability. The bill provides that the Commissioner of Education must pay 100 percent of the costs authorized for special education transportation services that exceed \$20,000 annually for each eligible child with a disability within the jurisdiction of the school administrative unit.

The bill also amends the statutes related to the annual review of the essential programs and services components

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required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15686-A by requiring the Commissioner of Education to submit an annual report on the components scheduled for review every three years, including a work plan that specifies the components to be reviewed during the next fiscal year, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. If the work plan is inconsistent with the components scheduled for review, the commissioner shall provide the reason for each requested change in the report submitted to the joint standing committee, and the joint standing committee is authorized to approve in writing the proposed changes to the component review schedule specified in the work plan.

LD 1282 An Act To Support Conservation and the Health and Wellness of Maine ONTP
Youth through Physically Active Residential Environmental Education
Programs

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

This bill establishes the Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students Program to support residential environmental education program experiences for public school students in grades five to eight in the State. It also establishes the Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships to students in the State to attend a residential environmental education program. Scholarships must be in an amount equal to 50 percent of the cost of attendance at a residential environmental education program and must be distributed to students in a manner that ensures students receiving scholarships attend residential environmental education programs across the State.

LD 1285 An Act To Support School Nutrition Died Between
Houses

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

This bill requires the Department of Education to develop and support local food training programs for public school food service personnel and facilitate the use of local food hubs to expand the use of local foods in schools. It increases the limit on the amount that the State matches for the acquisition of local food by a school administrative unit if the unit sends a food service employee for training in the acquisition and use of local foods. It directs the department to develop and post a position description for school food service program personnel on its publicly accessible website and to develop an annual competitive skill-oriented school food service recognition emphasizing creative and effective use of local foods. It directs the Department of Education to apply for federal grant funding for the implementation of the local foods training program and the increased state contribution for the Local Produce Fund and it makes implementation contingent on receipt of funding. It also allows the department to accept grant funding from hospitals and other sources.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-196)

This amendment which is the majority report of the committee adds a definition of the term "local food hub," which is any business or organization that locates and obtains local food and can handle the logistics of supplying and delivering local foods to schools. This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.