

# 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 1360 An Act To Increase the Number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Professionals in Maine**

**Died On  
Adjournment**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| VOLK<br>POULIOT   | OTP-AM                  | S-243                     |

The purpose of this bill is to increase the number of students pursuing graduate and undergraduate degrees in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This bill creates the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. Under the bill, loans with varying interest rates will be provided to participating students depending on their future employment: loans with zero percent interest rates will be available to students who remain in or return to the State and work in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics upon graduation; loans bearing an interest rate of five percent will be available to students who remain in or return to the State upon graduation but are not employed in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and loans bearing an interest rate of eight percent annually will be available for students who live and work outside the State upon graduation. This bill appropriates \$10,000,000 to fund the program for fiscal year 2015-16.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-243)**

This amendment strikes a reference to a loan repayment program from the title of the chapter of law proposed to be enacted in the bill. The amendment adds high school seniors to the definition of "STEM student." The amendment also changes the maximum loan term from four years to five years and strikes a reference to eight percent loans being available to students who, upon graduation, are not employed in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Finally, the amendment adds a contingency funding provision that prohibits the Finance Authority of Maine from providing loans through the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program in fiscal year 2015-16 unless legislation is enacted during the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature that provides additional funding for the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program for fiscal year 2015-16 and for the Maine Community College System for fiscal year 2015-16 and fiscal year 2016-17.

**LD 1370 An Act To Improve the Quality of Teachers**

**CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>  | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MILLETT<br>HUBBELL |                         |                           |

This bill proposes to improve teacher quality in the State by amending the current statutes related to programs involving teacher preparation, support systems for provisional teachers, teacher certification, teacher salaries and college loans for students enrolled in a program of study leading to certification as a teacher. The bill includes the following provisions.

1. It expands the student teaching experience and specifies an academic achievement level necessary for applicants to qualify for a provisional teaching certificate.
2. It strengthens the support systems required to provide assistance for provisional teachers during each year of their probationary period.
3. It directs the Commissioner of Education to pay salary supplements to classroom teachers who are involved in

***Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs***

the operation of a school administrative unit's support system approved in accordance with the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13015.

4. It provides that an individual who has not completed a master's degree program and who is issued a teacher certificate in accordance with Title 20-A, chapter 502 on or after July 1, 2015 may not receive a renewed certificate or a new teaching certificate unless the individual completes a master's degree program within five years of being employed as a teacher in the State.

5. It increases the minimum salaries for certified teachers to \$40,000 beginning in the 2016-2017 school year and includes state funding for the incremental costs of meeting this minimum as part of the school funding formula.

6. It requires the Department of Education to increase the qualifying scores for the standardized qualifying examinations for applicants for initial teacher certification in its Rule Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators no later than July 1, 2016.

7. It provides additional appropriations for the Educators for Maine Program within the Finance Authority of Maine in order to double the annual investment of state loan funds awarded to eligible students.

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

**LD 1386      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing High School Graduation Requirements**

**Accepted Majority  
(ONTP) Report**

|                                |   |                           |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u><br>KORNFIELD | <u>Committee Report</u><br>ONTP<br>OTP-AM | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|

This bill amends the current education statutes related to requirements for awarding a high school diploma to establish a blended system of graduation requirements that provides that a diploma indicating graduation from a secondary school must be awarded to students who accumulate at least 20 academic credits documenting the successful completion of courses and demonstrate proficiency in meeting state standards in at least two content areas of the system of learning results established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209. The bill also provides that a school administrative unit may award an endorsement of content area proficiency to a student who has demonstrated proficiency in a content area of the system of learning results. This bill accomplishes the following.

1. It amends the basic school approval standards that guide curriculum and instruction and promote student advancement and graduation to include language for transitioning to the blended system. Specifically, it provides that a school administrative unit's comprehensive education plan must include a plan for transitioning to the blended system.

2. It provides that, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, diplomas must be awarded to students who meet the new curriculum and instructional requirements established for secondary schools and school boards must adopt policies to phase in these new requirements.

3. It strikes the provision that would repeal, on July 1, 2020, the standards for awarding high school diplomas to secondary school students who successfully complete courses required for graduation in accordance with Title 20-A, section 4722, thus providing that these standards will continue to apply as part of the blended system.

4. It removes the requirement that a diploma indicating graduation from a secondary school on or after January 1, 2017 must be based on student demonstration of proficiency in all content areas established under the system of