

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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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
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND 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 Second 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.

CARRIED OVER..... *carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature*
CON RES XXX..... *chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses*
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... *Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died*
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... *House & Senate disagreed; legislation died*
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... *defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died*
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... *action incomplete when session ended; legislation died*
EMERGENCY..... *enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment*
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or PASSAGE..... *emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote*
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... *failed to receive final majority vote*
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT..... *legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote*
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... *Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session*
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... *sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted*
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... *ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died*
INDEF PP..... *indefinitely postponed; legislation died*
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... *ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died*
P&S XXX..... *chapter # of enacted private & special law*
PUBLIC XXX..... *chapter # of enacted public law*
RESOLVE XXX..... *chapter # of finally passed resolve*
VETO SUSTAINED..... *Legislature failed to override Governor's veto*

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is July 29, 2016. 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

implement the school accountability system and that the rules must specify the methods to be used as part of the annual assessment of the performance of elementary and secondary schools and the proficiency of elementary and secondary school students beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

LD 1370 An Act To Improve the Quality of Teachers

Died Between Houses

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

The 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 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.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-432)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and, like the 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 amendment includes the following provisions.

1. It amends the provisions of the bill that expand the student teaching experience and academic achievement

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requirements for a provisional teacher certificate. The amendment specifies the number of hours of practicum an applicant must complete, clarifies the time frame during which the student teaching experience must occur and specifies that the grade point average requirement applies only to an applicant's teacher preparation course work. The bill increases to 24 the minimum number of weeks of student teaching experience an applicant must complete; the amendment retains the current requirement of 15 weeks. The amendment enacts a grade point average requirement with respect to applicants recommended by educational institutions offering teacher preparation programs.

2. It retains the provisions of the bill that strengthen the support systems required to provide assistance for provisional teachers during each year of their probationary period and that require the Commissioner of Education to pay salary supplements to teachers who are involved in the operation of such systems.
3. It removes the provision of the bill that requires an individual who is issued a teacher certificate on or after July 1, 2015 and has not completed a master's degree program to complete a master's degree program before the individual may have the individual's certificate renewed or be issued another certificate.
4. It provides that the provisions of the bill increasing the minimum salary for certified teachers to \$40,000 apply beginning with the 2017-2018 school year and that the provisions of the bill that include in the school funding formula the state funding for the incremental costs of meeting this minimum apply beginning in fiscal year 2017-18. The amendment removes the provision of the bill requiring the commissioner to pay the increased teacher retirement contributions resulting from the increase in minimum salary.
5. It removes the provision of the bill that requires the Department of Education to increase the qualifying scores for the standardized qualifying examinations for initial teacher certification.
6. It requires the State Board of Education to amend its rule Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel to articulate and outline clear standards for the memorandum of understanding between student teachers, teacher preparation programs and participating school administrative units.
7. It directs the Governor to appoint members to vacant positions on the Professional Standards Board by September 1, 2016 and directs the board to reactivate by October 1, 2016.
8. 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 amendment was not adopted.

**LD 1394 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To
Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the
School Funding Formula**

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-630

The bill was reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs during the First Regular Session pursuant to Resolve 2013, chapter 114, section 10 and then referred back to the committee. The bill was then carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

The bill incorporates changes to the education statutes and rules proposed by the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula that the commission's report