

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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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 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.

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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

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indicated are necessary to implement its recommendations.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-630)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment updates a number of initiatives proposed in the bill to incorporate 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 indicated are necessary to implement its recommendations. The amendment retains many provisions of the bill, but differs from the bill in the following ways.

1. It amends the laws concerning after-school programs to comply with the extended learning program recommended by the commission.
2. It strikes the bill's proposal to remove the state contributions to teacher retirement, retired teachers' health insurance and retired teachers' life insurance from the annual transition targets.
3. The bill proposes to remove language reducing the salary and benefit costs for teachers and school education staff from the amount of funds received by a school administrative unit under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 United States Code, Section 6301 et seq. The amendment instead directs the Department of Education and the Education Research Institute to conduct further research and analysis of the availability of federal grant funds.
4. It strikes the bill's proposal to increase the adjustments to the state share of the special education costs as part of the total allocation provided to a school administrative unit that receives a minimum state allocation under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 1, paragraph B.
5. It strikes the bill's proposals to authorize the Commissioner of Education to expend and disburse state funds to provide grants to school administrative units for the establishment of summer schools and for the establishment of collaborative time for professional development through the authorization of miscellaneous costs under Title 20-A, section 15689-A.
6. It adds the following initiatives to the enhancing student performance and opportunity system provisions of school funding based on essential programs and services in Title 20-A, section 15688-A to authorize the commissioner to expend and disburse state funds:
 - A. To provide for additional support to school administrative units beyond the additional weight of 15 provided for each economically disadvantaged student;
 - B. To provide grants to school administrative units for the establishment of summer schools;
 - C. To provide grants to school administrative units for the establishment of extended learning programs;
and
 - D. To provide grants to school administrative units for the establishment of collaborative time for professional development.
7. It adds the enhancing-student-performance-and-opportunity-system provisions of school funding based on essential programs and services in Title 20-A, section 15688-A to the guidelines that require the commissioner to update the recommendations, computation and the purposes for each of the cost components included in adjustments and miscellaneous costs under Title 20-A, section 15689-C, subsection 4.

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8. It strikes the bill's proposal to appropriate and allocate funds for the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools account.

9. It removes the requirement for the department to convene and staff a stakeholder group to develop guidelines for the definition of "qualifying leadership" and best practice guidelines for the inclusion of leadership in collaborative time for professional development and instead requires the department to develop those guidelines.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1459 An Act To Clarify the Use of Student Data from the Statewide Assessment Test

PUBLIC 405

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ESPLING E BRAKEY E	OTP-AM	H-553

This bill delays by one year the implementation of any assessment test chosen by the Department of Education to replace the Smarter Balanced Assessment but allows schools to voluntarily implement the new test for the 2015-2016 school year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-553)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill to delay until the 2017-2018 school year the requirement that school administrative units fully implement the performance evaluation and professional growth system established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 508 to measure educator effectiveness. The amendment provides that, during the 2016-2017 school year, each unit must operate and apply a pilot project to all of the schools and applicable staff in the unit. The amendment delays the use of statewide student assessment data as part of the performance evaluation and professional growth system to measure educator effectiveness. The amendment also delays until the 2017-2018 school year the use of statewide assessment data of student academic achievement as part of a system to evaluate or rate the performance of public schools in the State that is similar to or different from the school performance grading system developed by the Department of Education and introduced on May 1, 2013.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 405 delays until the 2017-2018 school year the requirement that school administrative units fully implement the performance evaluation and professional growth system established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 508 to measure educator effectiveness. The law provides that, during the 2016-2017 school year, each unit must operate and apply a pilot project to all of the schools and applicable staff in the unit. The law delays the use of statewide student assessment data as part of the performance evaluation and professional growth system to measure educator effectiveness. The law also delays until the 2017-2018 school year the use of statewide assessment data of student academic achievement as part of a system to evaluate or rate the performance of public schools in the State that is similar to or different from the school performance grading system developed by the Department of Education and introduced on May 1, 2013.