

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
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

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

127TH 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 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

secondary schools in English language arts and mathematics that are aligned with the new standards for use during the 2019-2020 school year and each school year thereafter;

5. Specifies that the nationally standardized assessment that is required as part of the statewide educational assessment program must be a nationally recognized, norm-referenced assessment, instead of a nationally standardized assessment as under current law and adds the requirement that it measure college and career readiness; and
6. Requires that a school administrative unit excuse a student from standardized assessments at the written request of the student's parent or guardian and establishes requirements for school administrative units and the Department of Education related to excusing a student.

With regard to the comparison of standards and assessments, the bill:

1. Requires the Department of Education to compare and publish on its website a comparison of the new content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies that will be effective in the 2019-2020 school year with Maine's state standards and the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements and to submit a report to the Legislature and Governor outlining the results of the comparison of the standards; and
2. Requires the subcommittees in the content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies to compare the content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies with the content standards that were previously adopted by the Department of Education pursuant to Public Law 2009, chapter 313, section 19 and Public Law 2009, chapter 647, section 1.

With regard to the release of personally identifiable data, the bill:

1. Specifies that, if the Federal Government requires a grant recipient to provide personally identifiable information of students or teachers as a condition of a federal education grant relating to content standards, only aggregate data may be provided for that purpose; and
2. Prohibits a federal grant recipient from releasing personally identifiable information without informed written consent of the student's parent or guardian for a student's information or of the teacher for a teacher's information.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-315)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, makes a technical change to the bill to reflect changes in law enacted by Public Law 2015, chapter 40.

LD 1406

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion

Died On Adjournment

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

OTP-AM

S-163

This emergency bill includes certain recommendations proposed by the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion for consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

The joint standing committee has not taken a position on the substance of the report or this bill and by submitting this bill the committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of the recommendations and the necessary changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 419-A included in the report or this bill. The joint standing committee is submitting the bill for the sole purpose of turning the

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

proposals in the report into a printed bill that can be referred to the committee for an appropriate public hearing and subsequent processing in the normal course of business. The joint standing committee is taking this action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative review of the proposals included in the report submitted by the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-163)

This amendment makes the following changes to the recommendations proposed by the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion for consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

1. It strikes the proposal to increase the minimum Maine State Grant Program awards from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
2. It changes the date for the initial report required from the Finance Authority of Maine for the annual Maine State Grant Program awards made to eligible students, including the possible tiered grants awarded, from January 15, 2016 to September 1, 2016 and also amends the annual report date to September 1st.
3. It changes the date for the college attainment and degree completion goal reports required from the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy from July 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016.
4. It changes the date for the reports on strategic planning and funding required to implement college completion strategies required from the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy from July 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016.
5. It strikes the proposal to require the Finance Authority of Maine to amend the Maine State Grant Program rules related to awarding tiered grants to eligible students.
6. It strikes the appropriations to the Finance Authority of Maine for tiered grant awards and to the Maine Community College System for adding College Navigator positions and expanding student work study opportunities and replaces them with an allocation to fund the one-time costs of the legislative per diem and expenses of the Task Force To Study College Attainment and Degree Completion Goals.

LD 1420 An Act Regarding Participation by Private School Students in Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities at Public Schools

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT KRUGER	ONTP OTP	

Current law allows a student at a private school that is recognized by the Department of Education as providing an equivalent instruction alternative to try out for extracurricular or interscholastic activities at a public school if the private school the student attends does not offer the same extracurricular or interscholastic activities, the principal of the public school approves and the student agrees to abide by other conditions.

This bill extends the same privilege to a student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program at a private school that is approved for attendance purposes by the Department of Education. Private schools that are approved by the department must meet standards for hygiene, health and safety and either be accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges or meet applicable requirements of Maine law pertaining to private schools and the department's requirements for approval for attendance purposes.