

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

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.