

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**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

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# STATE OF MAINE

127<sup>TH</sup> 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 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 1441**

**An Act To Establish the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee**

**PUBLIC 261**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

OTP

This bill is reported out pursuant to joint order by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The bill replaces the Education Coordinating Committee with the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee to:

1. Promote efficiency, cooperative effort and strategic planning between the governance structures of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System and address issues including, but not limited to, improving college affordability, promoting student transfer between the systems, reducing the duplication of programs, identifying opportunities for building cross-system economies of scale and sharing of resources and recommending statutory changes to improve the efficiency or effectiveness of the public institutions of higher education;
2. Investigate and pursue opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing with the Maine Maritime Academy; and
3. With the Commissioner of Education and the Chair of the State Board of Education, investigate and pursue opportunities to improve college preparation, transition and completion for Maine's secondary students.

The first meeting of the committee must be convened by October 15, 2015 and the committee is directed to meet at least twice each year. The committee is required to submit a report on its deliberations, including any recommendations, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by February 15th each year.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 261 replaces the Education Coordinating Committee with the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee to:

1. Promote efficiency, cooperative effort and strategic planning between the governance structures of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System and address issues including, but not limited to, improving college affordability, promoting student transfer between the systems, reducing the duplication of programs, identifying opportunities for building cross-system economies of scale and sharing of resources and recommending statutory changes to improve the efficiency or effectiveness of the public institutions of higher education;
2. Investigate and pursue opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing with the Maine Maritime Academy; and
3. With the Commissioner of Education and the Chair of the State Board of Education, investigate and pursue opportunities to improve college preparation, transition and completion for Maine's secondary students.

The first meeting of the committee must be convened by October 15, 2015 and the committee is directed to meet at least twice each year. The committee is required to submit a report on its deliberations, including any recommendations, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by February 15th each year.