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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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.

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 FINAL 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 October 15, 2015. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

LD 1443   **An Act To Merge the Maine Educational Loan Authority with the Finance Authority of Maine**   PUBLIC 170

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LANGLEY	OTP-AM	S-223

This bill merges the Maine Educational Loan Authority with the Finance Authority of Maine.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-223)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 170 merges the Maine Educational Loan Authority with the Finance Authority of Maine.

LD 1448   **An Act To Amend Education Laws**   INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
EDGECOMB P		

This bill gives the Commissioner of Education the authority to designate a school administrative unit to enroll a student when the student's school administrative unit neither maintains a school nor contracts with another school administrative unit and no school administrative unit enrolls the student voluntarily. For a student receiving special education services, the bill requires a resident school administrative unit to pay to the receiving school administrative unit tuition, special education tuition, other costs directly related to the student's special education and costs associated with due process proceedings for providing a free, appropriate public education.

This bill makes the following changes to the laws relating to public charter schools.

1. The bill allows charter schools authorized by a local school board or a collaborative among local school boards to give enrollment preference to residents of the school administrative unit or units whose school board or school boards authorized the charter school.

2. The bill extends the submission deadline for a charter school authorizer's annual report to the Commissioner of Education from 60 to 90 days after the end of the school fiscal year and adds language to address the disposition of graduation records and records of other students not transitioning to another Maine public school if a charter school closes.

3. The bill adds language to reflect that charter schools are subject to educator effectiveness requirements.

4. The bill provides that the compulsory attendance laws apply to virtual charter schools.

5. The bill allows the Commissioner of Education to designate the school administrative unit that is responsible for oversight of the individualized education program of a child with a disability who is a state ward and is placed in an out-of-state residential treatment center by the Department of Health and Human Services.

6. For a charter school in a school administrative unit with an enrollment of 500 or fewer students, current law caps the number of students from the school administrative unit that the charter school may enroll during its first three