

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**

May 2016

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND 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 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.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 1655

An Act To Increase the Number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Professionals in the State

PUBLIC 435

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND J	OTP-AM OTP-AM	S-446

The purpose of this bill is to increase the number of students pursuing graduate and undergraduate degrees in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This bill creates the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. Under the bill, loans with varying interest rates will be provided to participating students depending on their future residency and employment: loans bearing an interest rate of 0% annually will be available to students who remain in or return to the State and work in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics upon graduation; loans bearing an interest rate of 5% annually will be available to students who remain in or return to the State upon graduation but are not employed in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and loans bearing an interest rate of 8% annually will be available for students who live and work outside the State upon graduation. The bill also authorizes the Commissioner of Education to grant funds to the program's Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Fund if they become available.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-446)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment adds high school seniors to the definition of "STEM student" under the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program. The amendment changes the maximum loan term from four years to five years and strikes a reference to loans bearing an annual interest rate of 8% being available to students who, upon graduation, are not employed in the field of science, computer science, technology, engineering or mathematics. The amendment allows a person who is working as an educator in the field of science, computer science, technology, engineering or mathematics to qualify for a 0% interest rate. The amendment removes the authority for the Commissioner of Education to grant funds to the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Fund. The amendment adds a requirement that the Finance Authority of Maine submit a report regarding the effectiveness of the program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by January 15th of the fifth year after the loan program begins awarding loans.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-447)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, adds high school seniors to the definition of "STEM student" under the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program and requires that the institution of higher education be in this State. The amendment changes the maximum loan term from four years to five years and strikes a reference to loans bearing an annual interest rate of 8% being available to students who, upon graduation, are not employed in the field of science, computer science, technology, engineering or mathematics. The amendment allows a person who is working as an educator in the field of science, computer science, technology, engineering or mathematics to qualify for a 0% interest rate. The amendment removes the authority for the Commissioner of Education to grant funds to the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Fund. The amendment adds a requirement that the Finance Authority of Maine submit a report regarding the effectiveness of the program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by January 15th of the fifth year after the loan program begins awarding loans.

This amendment was not adopted.

Enacted Law Summary

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Public Law 2016, chapter 435 creates the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. Under the law, loans with varying interest rates will be provided to participating students depending on their future residency and employment: loans bearing an interest rate of 0% annually will be available to students who remain in or return to the State and work in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics upon graduation; loans bearing an interest rate of 5% annually will be available to students who remain in or return to the State upon graduation but are not employed in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and loans bearing an interest rate of 8% annually will be available for students who live and work outside the State upon graduation. The law also allows a person who is working in the State as an educator in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering or mathematics to qualify for a 0% interest rate. The loans are available to high school seniors committed to the study of science, computer science, technology, engineering or mathematics at an accredited institution of higher education and may be provided by the Finance Authority of Maine for a maximum of five years to selected STEM students. Public Law 2016, chapter 435 requires the Finance Authority of Maine to submit a report regarding the effectiveness of the program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by January 15th of the fifth year after the loan program begins awarding loans.

LD 1660 An Act To Establish the Fund To Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>

This initiated bill was not referred to a committee.

The initiated bill establishes the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education for the purpose of improving the ability of the State to reach the annual target of 55%, as specified in statute, for the state share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, and for increasing direct support for student learning rather than administrative costs. Revenue for the fund is generated by a 3% surcharge on Maine income tax over \$200,000, beginning with tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

LD 1675 Resolve, To Create the Task Force on Public-private Partnerships To Support Public Education RESOLVE 89 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-628 S-541 MASON G

This resolve was reported by the committee pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 52 and then referred back to the committee for processing in the normal course.

The resolve establishes the Task Force on Public-private Partnerships To Support Public Education. The task force has 17 members, including legislative members, the Commissioner of Education, school principals and members representing philanthropic, business and financing interests who have experience in performance-based contracting in the social sector or social impact bonds. The task force must research the various aspects of the issues related to using performance-based contracting and social impact bonding to support public education and develop a pilot project for the implementation of performance-based contracting and social impact bonding to support public education. The task force must report its findings to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs may report out a bill based on the task force's report.