

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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STAFF:

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
ALYSON MAYO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

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STATE OF MAINE

128TH 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 128th 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 128th Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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 158 **An Act To Improve the Certification and Evaluation of New Educators and Administrators by Consolidating Standards** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREA D LANGLEY B	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to streamline the process for moving teachers and administrators from provisional certification to professional certification by including in that certification process elements of the locally adopted and state-approved evaluation system conducted by supervisory personnel that is used to evaluate and improve teacher and administrator performance. The local support system that includes the pairing of mentors with mentees and is commonly known as the professional learning community support system must remain distinctly separate from any evaluation by supervisory personnel.

LD 180 **An Act To Enhance Higher Education in Maine through the Creation of a Unified Board of Higher Education** **ONTP**

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

This bill replaces the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System and the Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy with the Board of Trustees of Higher Education to provide a unified body for the governance of those institutions.

Part A makes changes to the law to replace some select references to the individual boards of trustees with references to the unified board and enacts a new chapter in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A with provisions that establish the new unified board.

Part B establishes a transition team to recommend further changes to the law to fully accomplish the transition to the unified board. The transition team will recommend specific changes to determine the qualifications of trustees and the powers and duties of the unified board in a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The report of the transition team must also recommend changes to the administration or organization of and the existing laws governing the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College System to ensure the efficient operation under the unified board and to avoid any potential conflicts with the law establishing the unified board. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature based upon the report.

LD 181 **An Act To Improve Teacher Preparation Programs** **ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

The purpose of this bill is to attract and retain new teachers in the State. This bill proposes to create incentives to

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attract students to teacher education programs in colleges and universities in the State and to retain those students to teach in schools in the State after graduation. The bill also proposes to identify components of effective teacher preparation programs in colleges and universities, including, but not limited to, educating teachers to use technology in the classroom in new ways. To encourage new teachers to stay in the State, the bill also proposes to establish a tuition reduction and loan repayment program for new teachers who teach in the State for five years after graduation.

LD 228 An Act To Amend the Mathematics Requirements for High School Graduation CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY B MALABY R		

This bill prohibits requiring the secondary course of study in schools from including an advanced algebra course and prohibits requiring students to achieve proficiency in advanced algebra. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to amend the rules by the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year requiring students to complete an advanced algebra course.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1138.

LD 312 An Act To Support Workforce Development by Increasing Engineering Capacity Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK A FECTEAU R	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill provides \$400,000 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$400,000 in fiscal year 2018-19 to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund to strengthen the University of Maine System's engineering programs by seeding the development of competencies in areas such as industrial engineering, environmental engineering and biomedical engineering to meet the applied research and workforce needs of existing, growing and emerging industrial activity in southern Maine. The funds will support the acquisition of critical infrastructure at the University of Southern Maine, such as laboratory equipment and personnel that are necessary to strengthen the University of Southern Maine's engineering program, while promoting synergy with the University of Maine's engineering program. Ongoing equipment maintenance and personnel costs will be absorbed within the University of Southern Maine's budgeted resources.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-193)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, changes the bill to a resolve and requires the University of Maine System to study the existing and emerging engineering workforce, applied research and technical assistance needs of southern Maine businesses and industry. The study must include recommendations to increase the engineering capacity specifically in southern Maine by strengthening academic and related nonacademic programs at the University of Southern Maine. The University of Maine System is required to report its findings and recommendations to its board of trustees by November 20, 2017 and to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development by December 31, 2017. After reviewing the report, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill to implement recommendations contained in the report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. The cost of the study will be absorbed using existing University of Maine System resources.