

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<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 2017

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<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 128<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.

*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 128<sup>th</sup> 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.

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This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 322      An Act To Reintroduce Civics to High School Graduation Requirements      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ORDWAY L DIAMOND B	ONTP	

This bill requires secondary schools to provide instruction in civics as part of the requirements for graduation.

**LD 333      An Act To Stabilize Maine's Educational Leadership and Vision      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEARNS P MILLETT R	ONTP	

This bill changes the selection process for the position of Commissioner of Education. Instead of being appointed by the Governor, under this bill, the commissioner is selected by the State Board of Education in consultation with the Governor. The candidate selected by the State Board of Education would be subject to legislative review and confirmation.

**LD 334      An Act To Clarify the Uses of the Fund To Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education      CARRIED OVER**

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

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

This bill proposes to amend the provisions of the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education as enacted in Initiated Bill 2015, chapter 4 in order to clarify terminology and uses of the fund.

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

**LD 353      An Act To Reduce Absenteeism in Students from Kindergarten to Third Grade      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KORNFIELD T MILLETT R	ONTP	

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

This bill proposes to direct the Department of Education to establish a program that provides incentives to parents or guardians of students in kindergarten to third grade who are prone to absenteeism from school to encourage the

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parents or guardians to reduce or eliminate the absenteeism. The parent or guardian of a student who has been determined to have excessive absenteeism would be required to meet with a school administrator and social worker. Incentives may be offered, for example, cash rewards or gift cards to grocery stores. The program would be a public-private partnership, and the Department of Education would seek private or corporate partners to help provide or donate the incentives.

**LD 354      An Act To Address the Shortage of School Administrative Professionals      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL W MILLETT R	ONTP	

This bill provides that limitations on conditions of restoration to service after retirement enacted in 2011 for state employees and teachers apply to school administrators. It also provides that, effective October 1, 2017, school administrators who have reached normal retirement age and who have retired after September 1, 2011 may be restored to service as school administrators for a maximum of ten years: five years under one-year contracts with compensation set at 100% of the compensation established for the position and five years with compensation set at 75%.

**LD 355      An Act Regarding Special Education Costs      ONTP**

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

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

The bill proposes to enact measures designed to increase the speed with which the State reimburses towns for unexpected spikes in special education costs.

**LD 356      An Act To Repeal Certain Requirements for Graduation from Secondary School      Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAMPSON H BRAKEY E	ONTP OTP-AM	

Under current law, in order to award to a student a diploma indicating graduation from secondary school, a school must certify that the student has demonstrated proficiency in each of the guiding principles set forth in rules adopted by the Department of Education. In accordance with rules adopted by the department, the guiding principles are measured using rubrics that assess and grade a student's proficiencies in being a clear and effective communicator, a self-directed and lifelong learner, a creative and practical problem solver, a responsible and involved citizen and an integrative and informed thinker. This bill repeals this requirement.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-82)**

This amendment, which is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education, incorporates a fiscal note.