

# 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.

**Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**

**LD 468      An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools**

**Accepted Minority  
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAUGHTRY M MILLETT R	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill requires that, by September 1, 2019, each school administrative unit ensure that its secondary schools' school days start no earlier than 8:30 a.m., and that extracurricular activities do not start after 7:30 p.m. on an evening immediately prior to a school day. A school administrative unit is required to provide a compliance plan. Units that do not provide a compliance plan face reductions in the state share of funding attributable to the cost of the components of essential programs and services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-128)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and provides that a school administrative unit may provide that its secondary schools' school days start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. The bill makes the later start time a requirement.

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 507      An Act To Establish Regional School Leadership Academies**

**Veto Sustained**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY B KORNFIELD T	OTP	

This bill allows school administrative units to enter into collaborative agreements to establish regional school leadership academies that combine state and local programs and resources, including the preparation, licensure, certification, professional development and training for educational leadership, into a coherent system that can significantly improve the recruitment and preparation of prospective candidates for school principalship and other school leadership positions, as well as the induction, mentoring and retention of principals and school leaders during the first two years of employment in their school leadership positions.

**LD 526      An Act To Remove the Cap on an Increase in the State Share of the Cost  
of Health Insurance for Retired Teachers**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLLINGS B MILLETT R	OTP-AM ONTP OTP-AM	H-42 S-41    LANGLEY B

Current law requires the State to pay 45% of a retired teacher's share of the premium for group accident and sickness or health insurance. This bill raises that percentage to 50% from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019; 55% from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021; and 60% after June 30, 2021. It also removes the cap on the increase in the State's total cost for retired teachers' health insurance premiums for fiscal years ending after June 30, 2015.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-42)**

***Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs***

This amendment is a minority report of the committee. The amendment strikes the bill's proposal to raise the required percentage of a retired teacher's share of the premium for group accident and sickness or health insurance from 45% to 60% between fiscal year 2016-17 and fiscal year 2020-21. The amendment retains the current requirement that the State pay 45% of a retired teacher's share of the premium for group accident and sickness or health insurance and, beginning in fiscal year 2017-18, removes the restriction in current law that limits the increase in the State's total cost for retired teachers' health insurance premiums.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-41)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

This amendment was not adopted.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "B" (S-41)**

This amendment removes the language that caps the increase in the State's total cost for retired teachers' health insurance premiums for certain fiscal years. It retains the current requirement that the State pay 45% of a retired teacher's share of the premium for group accident and sickness or health insurance.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to the next special or regular session of the 128th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, S.P. 601.

**LD 527      An Act To Prohibit Corporal Punishment in Schools      ONTP**

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

This bill prohibits the imposition of corporal punishment in elementary and secondary schools and preschool programs. "Corporal punishment" means any form of discipline or punishment involving offensive physical contact with or inflicting physical pain or discomfort on a student. "Corporal punishment" does not include the use of physical restraint to protect the student or others from immediate harm.

**LD 528      An Act To Create a Maine Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Studies Educational Component      ONTP**

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

This bill allows the study of race, ethnicity and culture in Maine to be taught in the State's elementary and secondary schools as a component of Maine studies.

**LD 570      An Act To Create the Maine Institute of Technology      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BELLOWS S ACKLEY K	ONTP	