

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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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

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	

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

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

This bill proposes to establish the Maine Institute of Technology as part of the University of Maine System. The institute would offer undergraduate and graduate-level degrees in the areas of science, mathematics, engineering and technology. This stand-alone educational institution would focus not only on providing a world-class education to its students, but also on attracting high-achieving, award-winning faculty with its focus on research and enterprise and opportunities to work with private sector entrepreneurs on applied technologies.

LD 573 *Resolve, To Audit Standardized Testing in Maine's Schools* ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY N SAMPSON H	ONTP	

This bill directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to conduct an audit of standardized testing in a random sample of school administrative units statewide for the purpose of understanding the amount, cost and usefulness of standardized testing. This bill requires the Maine Education Policy Research Institute no later than January 1, 2018, to issue a report with its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which may report out a bill based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

**LD 601 *An Act To Return the Normal Cost of Teacher Retirement to the State* **Died On
Adjournment****

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEARNS P	OTP-AM ONTP	H-73

This bill changes the method for funding teacher retirement costs. It repeals those provisions of law enacted pursuant to Public Law 2013, chapter 368 that require school administrative units and private schools to pay for teacher retirement.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-73)

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

**LD 602 *An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Membership of the Advisory
Committee on College Savings* **PUBLIC 200****

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT M KATZ R	OTP-AM	H-419

This bill changes the membership and chair appointment of the Advisory Committee on College Savings.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-419)

This amendment changes the membership of the Advisory Committee on College Savings. It also specifies that members appointed by the chair of the board of directors of the Finance Authority of Maine are appointed to