

# 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*

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<br>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<br>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<br>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