

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**

August 2017

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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 818 **An Act To Improve the Quality of Teachers**

**Died Between
Houses**

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

This bill proposes to improve teacher quality in the State by amending the current statutes related to programs involving teacher preparation, support systems for provisional teachers, teacher certification and teacher salaries and funding college loans for students enrolled in a program of study leading to certification as a teacher. The bill includes the following provisions:

1. It expands the student teaching experience and academic achievement requirements for a provisional teacher certificate, including:
 - A. Specifying the number of hours of practicum an applicant must complete;
 - B. Clarifying the time frame during which the student teaching experience must occur;
 - C. Specifying that the grade point average requirement applies only to an applicant's teacher preparation course work; and
 - D. Enacts a grade point average requirement with respect to applicants recommended by educational institutions offering teacher preparation programs.
2. It strengthens the support systems required to provide assistance for provisional teachers during each year of their probationary period and requires the Commissioner of Education to pay salary supplements to teachers who are involved in the operation of such systems.
3. It increases the minimum salary for certified teachers to \$40,000 beginning with the 2018-2019 school year and includes in the school funding formula state funding for the incremental costs of meeting this minimum beginning in fiscal year 2018-19.
4. It requires the State Board of Education to amend its rule Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel to articulate and outline clear standards for a memorandum of understanding between student teachers, teacher preparation programs and participating school administrative units.
5. It directs the Governor to appoint members to vacant positions on the Professional Standards Board by November 1, 2017 and directs the board to convene a meeting by December 1, 2017.
6. It provides additional appropriations for the Educators for Maine Program within the Finance Authority of Maine in order to double the annual investment of state loan funds awarded to eligible students.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-203)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment also adds provisions that:

1. Require that postbaccalaureate teacher certification programs and graduate programs be included in the State Board of Education's rules governing the qualifications for a provisional teacher certificate; and

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

2. Allow an educational institution that uses a proficiency-based grading system and offers an approved teacher preparation program to maintain at least an average proficiency rating for its students rather than a 3.0 average grade point average based on a 4.0 grade point system for its students.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 826 An Act To Prioritize the Renovation of Existing Underutilized Schools in ONTP
Conjunction with the Closing of Nearby Schools Due to Declining
Enrollment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARPENTER M STEWART H	ONTP	

This bill amends the laws governing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to add renovation and repurposing of underutilized space, when done in conjunction with closing a school, to the list of projects that qualify for Priority 1 status.

LD 840 An Act To Expand Educational Opportunities for Students in the Accepted Majority
Unorganized Territories (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL W	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill provides that the parent or guardian of a child residing in an unorganized unit that does not have an elementary school located in that unorganized unit may choose an elementary school in the State for that child to attend.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-393)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment replaces the bill. The amendment provides that a student who resides in an unorganized territory that does not have an elementary school and who was a tuition student prior to the 2016-2017 school year must continue to be accepted as a tuition student at that student's current elementary school until that student is no longer eligible to attend an elementary school. The amendment also provides that the parent or guardian of the tuition student who resides in an unorganized territory must provide transportation to the elementary school that the student attends.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 841 An Act To Provide Stability in MaineCare Payments for Educational ONTP
Programming

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MELARAGNO G	ONTP	

This bill amends the laws governing MaineCare payments for educational programming. Under current law, the Department of Education is authorized to pay on behalf of a school administrative unit allowable school-based costs that represent the school administrative unit's portion of MaineCare payments. Current law also provides that the department may then deduct that amount from the school administrative unit's state subsidy. This bill changes the