

# 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*

success programs in school administrative units throughout the State. The bill accomplishes the following.

1. It provides that money paid into the fund may include General Fund appropriations, as well as grants, gifts and other money from any unit of federal, state or local government or from any person, firm, partnership or corporation for deposit to the fund, money received from a social impact bond and interest, dividends and other pecuniary gains. It requires that school administrative units ensure that grants provided from the fund for expanding access to summer success programs supplement and not supplant federal funding.

2. It requires the commissioner to administer the fund within the Department of Education and to establish standards and approval for the allocation and use of fund money for summer success programs offered at elementary and secondary schools in the State. It also allows the commissioner to include the following in the standards:

- A. Guidelines similar to the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to close the achievement gap between high-performing and low-performing students;
- B. Effective models of summer success programs that involve networking and partnerships with community-based organizations that provide a range of high-quality services to support student learning and development; and
- C. Implementation of the formative and summative assessment methods to measure student achievement in order to monitor the progress of students participating in summer success programs.

3. It provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2018-19, the department is required to provide grant funding, through a grant application process, to cover 90% of the costs of summer success programs in school administrative units with greater than 50% student participation in the federal free and reduced-price lunch program.

4. It adds the fund to the enhancing student performance and opportunity provisions of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.

5. It requires the commissioner to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 15, 2017, that outlines the proposed rules to implement the fund by the 2018-2019 school year.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-113)**

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

**LD 926 An Act To Improve Equity in State Aid to Schools**

**Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEARNS P DAVIS P		

This bill provides for an adjustment in the state share of the total allocation to a highly funded school, which is defined as a school administrative unit whose total spending on education programs and services in the most recent year for which data is available exceeded 108% of the total cost of the components of essential programs and services for that school administrative unit in that year, excluding any adjustment made pursuant to this new provision. The Commissioner of Education is required to decrease the state share of the total allocation to a highly funded school by an amount equal to the difference between 108% of the total cost of the components of essential programs and services for that school administrative unit in the previous fiscal year and the amount spent by the

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school administrative unit on education programs and services in the previous fiscal year.

**LD 940 An Act To Increase Student Learning Time**

**ONTP**

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

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

This bill proposes to limit the total amount of time during each school year that a student spends taking tests.

**LD 941 An Act To Facilitate the Purchase of Textbooks for Low-income College Students**

**ONTP**

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

This bill amends the Maine State Grant Program, which is a grant program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, to award grants to Maine residents who are students at postsecondary institutions of higher education in Maine based on financial need. Under the program, the minimum grant is \$1,000 per year

This bill allows the authority, using the same need and residency criteria as for the grants, to award up to an additional \$500 grant for textbooks per year.

**LD 965 Resolve, To Create the Task Force To Study School Board Member Training**

**Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

This resolve creates the Task Force To Study School Board Member Training. The task force is required to submit its report with its recommendations and any accompanying legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 6, 2017.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-251)**

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment adds one additional member, who is a representative of the Maine Principals' Association, to increase the task force membership to ten participants. The amendment also clarifies that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall seek nominations from the Maine School Superintendents Association for the two members who are superintendents of school administrative units.

This amendment was not adopted.