

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

department develop the application. The amendment specifies to whom a paper application must be made available if a public school implements an Internet-based application process.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 238 requires the Department of Education to make information available to public schools regarding Internet-based applications for eligible students for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program. It specifies that a paper application for school meals must be made available to any student, parent or legal guardian who requests one if a public school implements an Internet-based application process.

LD 1129 An Act Regarding College Affordability

Died Between
Houses

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

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

This bill proposes to enact measures designed to increase the affordability of college.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-394)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and changes the title and replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment requires the Maine Community College System to identify and review programs that make college affordable and accessible in other states and to report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by February 1, 2018. It provides funding for two new scholarship programs within the Maine Community College System in fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19. It provides \$1,000,000 for a last dollar scholarship program to cover tuition and fees for selected students enrolled in a one-year occupational certificate program and \$2,000,000 for a last dollar scholarship program to cover tuition and fees for selected students who have successfully completed the first year of a two-year program and are enrolled for the second year. The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to implement the scholarship programs.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1130 An Act To Provide Traffic Safety Education in Schools

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAUGHTRY M KATZ R	OTP-AM ONTP	H-469 H-537 DAUGHTRY M

The purpose of this bill is to provide students in Maine with access to traffic safety education from an early age with the goal of teaching students safe practices and respect for all users of the road in order to reduce the unacceptable number of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and make Maine's roadways safer and more enjoyable for all users.

This bill requires all school administrative units to provide at least one hour annually of age-appropriate traffic safety education to students in grades two to 12. The traffic safety education program must provide, at a minimum, instruction on the use of public and private ways by pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicle operators and on the laws and rules regarding that use. A school administrative unit may contract with a third party to provide the education.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Committee Amendment "A" (H-469)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, modifies the requirements in the bill for age-appropriate traffic safety education in school administrative units. The amendment provides that the traffic safety education must be provided annually to at least four different grade levels from kindergarten to grade 12. The amendment retains the requirements of the bill that the education be at least one hour in length and meet certain minimum requirements. This amendment also provides funding for 90% of the cost to school administrative units to implement the traffic safety education curriculum.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-537)

This amendment requires traffic safety education to be provided annually in at least four different grades from grade four to grade 12, instead of kindergarten to grade 12 as in the committee amendment. This amendment revises the appropriations and allocations section based on the new requirement.

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 1131 An Act To Create Education Savings Accounts for Maine Students

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HANLEY J THIBODEAU M	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill directs the Treasurer of State to establish education savings accounts that may be used by the parents or legal guardians of children to pay for the education of their children outside of the public school system. The funding for these savings accounts would come from shifting 90% of the essential programs and services funding that would otherwise be provided by the State and the school administrative unit for each child into a savings account. The bill specifies what educational expenditures are permitted and provides for review of spending from the accounts.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-395)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1132 An Act To Create Education Savings Accounts for Students with Special Needs

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERRISH K BRAKEY E	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill directs the Department of Education to establish education savings accounts for children with disabilities that may be used by the parents or legal guardians of such children for certain educational purposes. The funding for these accounts would come from shifting 90% of the essential programs and services funding that would otherwise be provided by the State and the school administrative unit for the child into the savings account. The bill provides mechanisms for approval of educational expenditures and review of spending from the accounts.