

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 1156 An Act To Address Administrative Shortages in Maine Schools by ONTP
Amending the Law Regarding the Salaries of Retired Public School
Administrators Who Return to Service

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY B KORNFIELD T	ONTP	

This bill amends provisions regarding compensation and length of service of retired public school administrators who return to service by requiring for the first year of the return to service 100% of the compensation established for the position to be filled and for the subsequent four years annually reducing the compensation incrementally until compensation is 75% of the compensation established for the position to be filled. Current law sets the compensation at 75% of the compensation established for the position filled.

LD 1158 An Act To Remove the Limit on the Number of Public Charter Schools Accepted Majority
That May Be Approved (ONTP) Report

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

This bill repeals the provision of law that requires the Maine Charter School Commission to limit the number of schools approved for the public charter school program.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-217)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill and changes the title. The bill removes the limit on the number of public charter schools that may be approved. Under current law there is a 10-year transition period during which the Maine Charter School Commission may approve only 10 public charter schools. Once the cap is reached, the Commissioner of Education may not accept further registrations from the commission until the provision is repealed on July 1, 2022.

The amendment provides that, once the 10-school limit is reached, the commission may approve no more than one additional charter school each school year through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. This change does not affect the authority under current law for local school boards and collaboratives of local school boards to approve charters until the end of the 10-year transition period.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1160 Resolve, To Require a Study of Wages and Working Conditions for ONTP
Child Development Educators and Staff

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

This resolve requires the Child Development Services System to examine the working conditions and wages paid to individuals who provide early intervention or special education services in school administrative units and compare those working conditions and wages to those of persons in similar positions in the private sector and in elementary

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and secondary schools in this State. The system is required to develop recommendations for a wage schedule and other methods of improving recruitment and retention of child development educators and staff and submit its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

LD 1171 An Act To Sustain and Attract Skilled Workers to Maine by Improving the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHENETTE J NADEAU C	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill establishes a position within the Finance Authority of Maine to assist Maine residents in communicating with secondary school guidance counselors, college career counseling services staff and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services and with other issues related to the Maine resident's participating in the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program. This bill also increases the amount to market the program throughout the State from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-151)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment strikes the section of the bill that establishes a liaison position with respect to the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program and replaces it with a section appropriating \$70,000 in ongoing annual funds for the Finance Authority of Maine to hire and pay a full-time customer service employee for the purposes of promoting the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program and assisting interested individuals, businesses and schools. The amendment also provides that the Finance Authority of Maine is not required but may contract with a private, nonprofit corporation to help market the program.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1184 An Act To Exempt Public Safety Buildings from Historic Preservation Restrictions Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HARRINGTON M DAVIS P	ONTP OTP	

This bill exempts a public safety building, which is defined as a state, county or municipal building with the primary function of housing police, fire or emergency medical services, from restrictions imposed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or by a historical society in the State.

LD 1206 An Act To Increase State Funding to Maine Public Charter Schools and Noncharter Public Schools Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT M LANGLEY B	OTP-AM OTP-AM	H-304