

STATE OF MAINE 128^{TH} 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

 $128^{\text{TH}} LEGISLATURE$ FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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 OVERcarried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature	p
CON RES XXX	
CON RES AXA $(1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3,$	з 1
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died	a
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES	
DIED IN CONCURRENCE defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died	d
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT action incomplete when session ended; legislation died	d
EMERGENCYenacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment	t
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGEemergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote	е
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE failed to receive final majority vote	е
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENTlegislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote	е
HELD BY GOVERNOR Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session	n
LEAVE TO WITHDRAWsponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted	
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODYruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died	d
INDEF PP indefinitely postponed; legislation died	d
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died	d
P&S XXX	v
PUBLIC XXX	v
RESOLVE XXX	е
VETO SUSTAINEDLegislature failed to override Governor's veto	0
	-

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.

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sponsored by the local school unit on the same basis as a student receiving homeschool instruction may do under current law. The amendment adds a requirement that the student pay the same fees as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity pay. The local school unit may not impose any eligibility standards for participation in extracurricular activities by an eligible student that are not imposed on all other students.

The amendment also provides that, if an eligible student participates in cocurricular or extracurricular activities, the public charter school in which the eligible student is enrolled is required to pay to the local school unit the amount of the EPS per-pupil funding received by the public charter school for cocurricular and extracurricular activities, except that the public charter school is not required to pay in any fiscal year more than 100% of the fiscal year amount of the EPS per-pupil funding received by the public charter school for cocurricular and extracurricular activities.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1233 An Act To Provide Veterans and Gold Star Families Free Admission to the Maine State Museum

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SHEATS B CARSON B	ONTP	

This bill provides for free admission to the Maine State Museum for veterans and persons who are eligible to possess gold star lapel buttons or lapel buttons for next of kin of deceased military personnel.

LD 1234 An Act To Amend Maine's Truancy Laws by Specifying Penalties for ONTP Noncompliance

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GERRISH K MAKER J	ONTP	

This bill changes the age range for compulsory school attendance from seven years of age to under 17 years of age to six years of age to under 18 years of age and changes the number of absences required for a student to be considered truant. It establishes a fine for parents adjudged for repeated violations of the truancy laws and allows the superintendent to inform the Department of Health and Human Services that the student is a victim of abuse or neglect based on the parent's failure to ensure compliance with school attendance requirements. It also establishes a fine and possible driver's license suspension for truant students.

LD 1286 An Act To Facilitate Compliance by School Employees with Criminal History Record Check and Fingerprinting Requirements

CARRIED OVER

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MILLETT R	OTP-AM	S-221
MAREAN D		

This bill requires every school administrative unit to obtain a criminal history background check of an individual before hiring or placing that individual within the school administrative unit except for educational personnel currently required to undergo a criminal history background check. This bill also requires every school administrative unit to conduct an audit to determine if the school administrative unit possesses a criminal history background check for all current employees of the school administrative unit and to obtain criminal history background checks for those employees for whom the school administrative unit does not have a criminal history

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background check.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-221)

This amendment changes the title, replaces the bill and requires, beginning January 1, 2018, a school administrative unit to submit quarterly to the Department of Education a list of the names of all employees and the date on which each person most recently commenced employment. Upon receipt of the list, the department is required to determine for each person included on the list whether the person has complied with all applicable criminal history record check and fingerprinting requirements. If any person has failed to comply with any applicable requirement, the department is required to immediately notify the school administrative unit of that person's failure to comply.

This amendment also provides ongoing funds for 90% of the cost to school administrative units to comply with the bill as amended by this amendment.

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 1288An Act To Promote Computer Science and Efficient CommunicationONTPbetween Schools and the Department of Education0

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DILL J TIPPING R	ONTP	

This bill allows that proficiency in a computer programming language may substitute for proficiency in a world language to meet the parameters of secondary school essential instruction and graduation requirements. This bill also appropriates \$1,000,000 per year of the 2018-2019 biennium to the Department of Education to issue a request for proposals to purchase a student information system that tracks student proficiency, grades and other student information, that links with the Department of Education student information system and that can be given to school administrative units at no cost.

LD 1290 An Act To Provide Student Loan Debt Relief to Maine Teachers

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LIBBY N DAUGHTRY M	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill provides state funds of up to \$12,500 to a teacher for student loan forgiveness to match up to \$5,000 in federal student loan forgiveness awarded the teacher under the United States Department of Education's teacher loan forgiveness program. It provides up to \$12,500 to the teacher in a ratio of \$12.50 in state funds for every \$5 in federal loan forgiveness benefits the teacher receives.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-135)

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

This amendment was not adopted.