

STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

August 2015

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Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 3 An Act To Ensure Consistent Certification of Graduation Standards in Publicly Funded Secondary Schools

**PUBLIC 40
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL	OTP-AM	H-70

This bill makes demonstrated proficiency in the system of learning results a requirement for the award of a diploma indicating graduation from a public charter school, in order to match the requirements for public schools and private schools approved for tuition that enroll at least 60 percent publicly funded students. The bill also makes the statewide assessment program required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6202 applicable to public charter schools.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-70)

This amendment retains the provisions of the bill that clarify that public charter schools are subject to the provisions established under the system of learning results, including the statewide assessment program designed to measure students' academic achievement, that apply to public schools and private schools approved for tuition purposes that enroll at least 60 percent publicly funded students. The amendment adds the following provisions to the bill.

1. It provides that public charter schools are subject to the provisions established under the state standards initiated for awarding proficiency-based diplomas in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A and also provides that public charter schools are eligible for transition grants to implement the proficiency-based diploma standards.
2. It provides that a public charter school that operates a public preschool program must comply with the rules adopted by the Department of Education regarding basic school approval requirements for public preschool programs.
3. It updates a reference to the organization that approves accreditation for secondary private schools as part of the basic school approval provisions for private schools and revises this basic school approval provision to specify that a private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60 percent publicly funded students may be approved under this provision if it also meets the requirements of the system of learning results.
4. It requires that private secondary schools approved for attendance purposes by the Department of Education include the instruction required by the provisions established under the state standards initiated for awarding proficiency-based diplomas to secondary school students.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 40 changes the education statutes to clarify that public charter schools are subject to the provisions established under the system of learning results, including the statewide assessment program designed to measure students' academic achievement, that apply to public schools and private schools approved for tuition purposes that enroll at least 60 percent publicly funded students. This law amends and clarifies the following statutory provisions.

1. It provides that public charter schools are subject to the provisions established under the state standards initiated for awarding proficiency-based diplomas in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A and also provides that public charter schools are eligible for transition grants to implement the proficiency-based diploma standards.
2. It provides that a public charter school that operates a public preschool program must comply with the rules

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adopted by the Department of Education regarding basic school approval requirements for public preschool programs.

3. It updates a reference to the organization that approves accreditation for secondary private schools as part of the basic school approval provisions for private schools and revises this basic school approval provision to specify that a private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60 percent publicly funded students may be approved under this provision if it also meets the requirements of the system of learning results.

4. It requires that private secondary schools approved for attendance purposes by the Department of Education include the instruction required by the provisions established under the state standards initiated for awarding proficiency-based diplomas to secondary school students.

Public Law 2015, chapter 40 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 30, 2015.

LD 17 An Act To Restore Programs and Faculty to the University of Maine System ONTP

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

This bill provides ongoing funds to restore programs and faculty to the University of Maine System.

LD 18 Resolve, To Review and Audit the University of Maine System's Finances and Governance Practices ONTP

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

This resolve directs the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to review and audit the University of Maine System's finances and governance practices and submit a report of its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2016. The joint standing committee may submit legislation on the topic of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

LD 19 An Act Regarding Special Education for Students Enrolled in a Home Instruction Program ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ESPLING BRAKEY	ONTP	

This bill provides that a student enrolled in a home instruction program is eligible for special education and related services in the same manner that students enrolled in a private school are eligible for these services.

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LD 38 An Act To Allow Sufficient Time for Implementation of the Performance Evaluation and Professional Growth System for Educators

**PUBLIC 18
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	OTP	

This bill delays by one year the phased stages to implement educator effectiveness requirements for school administrative units.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 18 delays by one year the phased stages to implement educator effectiveness requirements for school administrative units.

Public Law 2015, chapter 18 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 12, 2015.

LD 42 An Act To Increase Funding for Instruction within the University of Maine System

ONTP

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

This bill requires that the amount by which any appropriation by the Legislature for the University of Maine System exceeds the fiscal year 2014-15 appropriation for the University of Maine System must be dedicated to instructional purposes and that the system report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters specific details regarding the expenditure.

LD 44 Resolve, To Direct the Department of Education To Train School Personnel To Implement Dyslexia Awareness and Student Accommodation Policies

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VEROW LIBBY	ONTP	

This resolve requires the Department of Education to train school personnel to implement dyslexia awareness and student accommodation policies.

LD 56 An Act To Limit Increases in the State's Share of Funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Public Education

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THERIAULT CYRWAY	ONTP	

This bill limits the State's share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 to no more than the prior fiscal year's share multiplied by one plus the most recent percentage of annual increase in the Consumer Price Index once the state share percentage reaches 55 percent.

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LD 59 An Act To Protect Students' Rights and Privacy Regarding Their School Records

PUBLIC 97

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FOLEY COLLINS	OTP-AM	H-55

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to adopt rules regarding dissemination of student information by schools not covered under current law. These rules are major substantive rules and must include substantially the same prohibitions and standards regarding dissemination of student information as applicable to publicly funded schools. The commissioner is required to recommend an appropriate penalty for a violation of the rules to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2016.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-55)

This amendment strikes and replaces the section of the bill that adds a new section to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 221, subchapter 1 related to the dissemination of student information by certain private schools that are not covered under current law. The amendment establishes substantially the same standards and prohibitions applicable to publicly funded schools for private schools approved by the Department of Education and private schools recognized by the department as providing equivalent instruction.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 97 adds a new section to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 221, subchapter 1 related to the prohibitions and standards regarding dissemination of student information by certain private schools that are not covered under current law. The law establishes substantially the same standards and prohibitions applicable to publicly funded schools for private schools approved by the Department of Education and private schools recognized by the department as providing equivalent instruction. The law also directs the Commissioner of Education to recommend an appropriate penalty for a violation of these standards and prohibitions to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2016. The committee is authorized to report out a bill to implement a penalty for a violation of these standards and prohibitions to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

LD 60 An Act To Ensure Proper Funding for Teacher Retirement

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KUMIEGA LIBBY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-14

This bill changes the method for funding teacher retirement costs. It repeals those provisions of law enacted pursuant to Public Law 2013, chapter 368 that require school administrative units and private schools to pay for teacher retirement.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-14)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

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LD 65 An Act To Apply Equally a Curtailment or Other Loss in General ONTP
Purpose Aid to Education

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL EDGECOMB P	ONTP	

If state revenue to a school administrative unit is reduced for any reason, this bill allows a school administrative unit to reduce the tuition it pays to a public or private school by the same percentage that the school administrative unit's share of state revenue under essential programs and services is reduced.

LD 97 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Amend the School RESOLVE 2
Emergency Drill Rules

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY FARNSWORTH	OTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Education to amend school emergency evacuation rules to include lockdown drills as well as emergency evacuation drills within the established required number of drills to be performed.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 2 directs the Department of Education to amend school emergency evacuation rules to include lockdown drills as well as emergency evacuation drills within the established required number of drills to be performed.

LD 99 An Act To Stabilize the Faculty and Programs at the University of ONTP
Southern Maine

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND MORRISON	ONTP	

This bill provides one-time funds of \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 to the University of Southern Maine to develop a recruitment and marketing program to stabilize enrollment.

LD 109 An Act To Ensure Maine Companies Have Access to Skilled Labor Died On
Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ESPLING HASKELL	OTP-AM	H-20

This bill provides \$75,000 per fiscal year to the Department of Education for the New Mainers Resource Center.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-20)

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This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 127 An Act To Preserve Programs in Allied Health at Kennebec Valley Community College **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

This bill provides one-time funding in fiscal year 2015-16 to Kennebec Valley Community College to preserve its programs in allied health.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-36)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 128 An Act To Allow a School Administrative Unit To Implement a Firearm Safety Education Program for Elementary School Students **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PICCHIOTTI WHITTEMORE	ONTP	

This bill requires the State Board of Education to develop guidelines for a standardized program of firearm safety education for elementary students and provides that school boards may adopt a firearm safety education program in conformance with the guidelines.

LD 129 An Act To Provide Options to Schools for Making Up School Days **PUBLIC 60
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL EDGECOMB P	OTP-AM	H-37

This bill provides that school administrative units may annually extend up to 25 school days by one hour each day. Five one-hour extensions count as one additional school day. Schools may use the extensions only to make up school days missed because of weather or emergency closures.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-37)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill and directs the Department of Education to amend its rules regarding the methods required and the options available for school officials to request a waiver from the Commissioner of Education to schedule make-up days and reschedule instructional time in Section 6 of Rule Chapter 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units. The amendment directs the Department of Education to adopt the amendments to the rule within seven business days of the effective date of this legislation. It also provides that the amended rule becomes effective when filed by the department.

The amendment retains the provisions in the bill that provide that school administrative units may annually extend up to 25 school days by one hour each day, that five one-hour extensions count as one additional school day and that

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schools may use the extensions only to make up school days missed because of weather or emergency closures. The amendment requires approval of the Commissioner of Education for implementation of extensions.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 60 provides that, upon approval of the Commissioner of Education, school administrative units may annually extend up to 25 school days by one hour each day to make up school days missed because of weather or emergency closures. The law provides that five one-hour extensions count as one additional school day for a school up day missed because of weather or emergency closure. The law also directs the Department of Education to amend its rules in Section 6 of Rule Chapter 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units regarding the methods required and the options available for school officials to request a waiver from the Commissioner of Education to schedule make-up days and reschedule instructional time.

Public Law 2015, chapter 60 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 10, 2015.

LD 130	An Act To Exempt Certain Established Public Prekindergarten Programs from New Regulations	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KORNFELD	ONTP	

This bill exempts public preschool programs in existence for at least three years on September 1, 2014 from new Department of Education rules related to standards and best practices for public preschool programs.

LD 131	An Act To Amend the Laws Related to Public Funding of Charter Schools	PUBLIC 54 EMERGENCY
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-38

This bill establishes provisions to fund public charter schools that are authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission beginning in fiscal year 2015-16.

1. The bill establishes provisions that calculate the total allocation of funds to be provided under general purpose aid for local schools for public charter schools that are authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission and establishes that the Commissioner of Education must adjust the operating allocation calculated for public charter schools by multiplying the operating allocation by the appropriate transition percentage in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671, subsection 7.
2. It also provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2015-16, the Commissioner of Education's recommendations to the Governor and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for funding levels under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act must include funding level computations for the total operating allocation of funds to public charter schools authorized by the commission in accordance with the provisions of this legislation.
3. It establishes a moratorium on the approval, authorization and execution of contracts for virtual public charter schools by the commission, and it provides that the moratorium applies to the period between the effective date of this legislation and one year following the effective date of this legislation.
4. It requires the Maine Charter School Commission to review the virtual public charter school models in other states and to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education

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and cultural affairs that recommends a model for virtual public charter schools that will best serve the academic and developmental needs of Maine students.

5. It requires that virtual public charter schools and authorizers include the Legislature among the recipients of certain of their reports.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-38)

This amendment provides clarification to the provisions established to fund public charter schools that are authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission beginning in fiscal year 2015-16. The amendment accomplishes the following:

1. It adds a provision to provide that a public charter school may receive payment for students residing in the unorganized territory and provides that a special education student residing in the unorganized territory must be treated the same as a resident student from a school administrative unit for purposes of special education costs;
2. It amends the calculation of the total allocation and state contribution for a public charter school to provide that the EPS per-pupil rate is different when only one school administrative unit sends students to a public charter school as compared to the EPS per-pupil rate when there is more than one school administrative unit sending students to the public charter school;
3. It amends the student count used for the determination of the EPS per-pupil rates for public charter schools by providing that the basic student count is the October 1st student count of the most recent calendar year prior to the year of funding;
4. It amends the provision related to the total allocation and state contribution for public charter schools to provide that up to three percent of this amount must be withheld and transferred to the Maine Charter School Commission in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 2405, subsection 5, paragraph B;
5. It removes the provision that establishes a moratorium on the approval of, authorization of and execution of contracts for virtual public charter schools by the Maine Charter School Commission;
6. It removes the provision that requires the Maine Charter School Commission to review the virtual public charter school models in other states and to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs; and
7. It amends the provisions that require the Commissioner of Education and the Governor to notify the governing board of each public charter school of the estimated amount of state contributions and the recommended funding level computations that must be allocated to the public charter school pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683-B to provide that these estimated contributions must be posted on the Department of Education's publicly accessible website.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 54 makes the following changes to the laws governing the funding of public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission beginning in fiscal year 2015-16.

1. It provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2015-16, the Commissioner of Education's recommendations to the Governor and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for funding levels under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act must include funding level computations for the total operating allocation of funds to public charter schools authorized by the commission in accordance with the provisions of this legislation.
2. It requires that the calculation of the total allocation of funds to be provided under general purpose aid for local schools for public charter schools that are authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission and establishes that

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the Commissioner of Education must adjust the operating allocation calculated for public charter schools by multiplying the operating allocation by the appropriate transition percentage in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671, subsection 7.

3. It requires that the Commissioner of Education and the Governor notify the governing board of each public charter school of the estimated amount of state contributions and the recommended funding level computations that must be allocated to the public charter school pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683-B to provide that these estimated contributions must be posted on the Department of Education's publicly accessible website.
4. It provides that the calculation of the total allocation and state contribution for the EPS per-pupil rate for a public charter school is different when only one school administrative unit sends students to a public charter school as compared to the EPS per-pupil rate when there is more than one school administrative unit sending students to the public charter school.
5. It provides that the basic student count used for the determination of the EPS per-pupil rates for public charter schools is the October 1st student count of the most recent calendar year prior to the year of funding.
6. It provides that a public charter school may receive payment for students residing in the unorganized territory and provides that a special education student residing in the unorganized territory must be treated the same as a resident student from a school administrative unit for purposes of special education costs.
7. It requires that up to three percent of the amount the total allocation and state contribution for public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission must be withheld and transferred to the commission in accordance with the provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 2405, subsection 5, paragraph B.
8. Finally, it requires that virtual public charter schools and authorizers include the Legislature among the recipients of certain of their reports required by law.

Public Law 2015, chapter 54 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2015.

LD 151 An Act To Protect Public Health in the Maine Community College System **Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN MILLETT		

This bill prohibits smoking on the grounds of any campus of the Maine Community College System. The bill provides an effective date of October 15, 2015 and an exception to the smoking ban for smoking undertaken as part of a religious ceremony or as part of a cultural activity by a defined group.

LD 152 An Act To Encourage Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation To Be Taught in High School **ONTP**

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

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This bill directs the Department of Education to develop a cardiopulmonary resuscitation model training program for school administrative units to offer to school personnel, secondary school students, parents and members of the public. In developing the training program, the department is authorized to seek collaboration and support in the form of money, staffing and expertise from organizations with the purpose of promoting cardiac health. The department is directed to encourage school administrative units to implement the training program.

**LD 201 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101:
Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a
Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education**

**RESOLVE 25
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-180

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-180)

This amendment provides that final adoption of portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Education, is authorized contingent upon the department's making specified changes to the proposed rule.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 25 provides that final adoption of portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Education, is authorized contingent upon the department's making specified changes to the proposed rule.

Resolve 2015, chapter 25 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 11, 2015.

**LD 215 An Act To Improve Student Retention in Maine's Postsecondary
Institutions**

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND MAKER	OTP-AM	S-21

This bill directs Jobs for Maine's Graduates, a state-authorized nonprofit corporation, to provide mentoring and counseling services, course guidance and graduation planning, peer support services and financial guidance to up to 200 students and at up to four postsecondary institutions in the State for the purpose of significantly increasing the percentage of eligible students who obtain a postsecondary degree. Eligible students must have previously been enrolled in a Jobs for Maine's Graduates high school program, been in or currently be in foster care or have earned a high school equivalency diploma within the five years prior to obtaining these services.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-21)

This amendment removes the limitations included in the bill on the number of postsecondary education institutions and the number of students that may be served by Jobs for Maine's Graduates as authorized by the bill.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

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LD 218 An Act To Support Fair Financing in Charter Schools and School Administrative Units

ONTP

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

This bill provides that per-pupil allocations paid by a school administrative unit to a public charter school must be returned to the school administrative unit of the student's residence, on a prorated basis, if the student discontinues enrollment at the public charter school and returns to the school administrative unit during the school year. The bill also changes the allocation of a provision of law to clarify when a school administrative unit needs to transfer funds to a charter school for certain programs.

LD 231 An Act To Ensure That Schoolchildren with Dyslexia Receive the Assistance Needed

PUBLIC 338

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MORRISON MILLETT	OTP-AM	H-279 S-327 HAMPER

This bill defines dyslexia as a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It requires school administrative units to conduct screenings of students from kindergarten to grade two for dyslexia, except that, for the 2016-2017 school year, school administrative units must screen students from kindergarten to grade three. It requires school administrative units to screen certain transfer and older students. It also creates the position of dyslexia consultant within the Department of Education and provides for the dyslexia consultant to provide school administrative units with dyslexia professional awareness training.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-279)

This amendment replaces the bill. It defines "dyslexia" and requires school administrative units to screen for dyslexia only those students from kindergarten to grade two who have certain difficulties, as noted by a classroom teacher, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. It also requires the Department of Education to hire a dyslexia coordinator by October 1, 2015 and describes the dyslexia coordinator's duties. The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-327)

This amendment strikes the General Fund appropriations from Committee Amendment "A." This amendment also adds a mandate preamble.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 338 defines "dyslexia" and requires school administrative units to screen for dyslexia only those students from kindergarten to grade two who have certain difficulties, as noted by a classroom teacher, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. It also requires the Department of Education to hire a dyslexia coordinator by October 1, 2015, who assists the Department of Education in complying with the dyslexia screening requirements and required general education interventions and develops a plan to implement dyslexia awareness training for teachers, implements professional development in evidence-based screening practices and identifies needs of schools for implementing intervention strategies for reading and language-based learning difficulties.

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LD 235 An Act To Adjust Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of the Department of Education, the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine State Museum and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

**PUBLIC 7
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROTUNDO HAMPER	OTP-AM	H-16

Part A of the bill adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Part B of the bill further adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Part C of the bill provides for the transfer of the payment for students who attend public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission from the resident school administrative unit to the State. The cost of these public charter schools is included in the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 beginning in fiscal year 2015-16.

Part D of the bill revises the amount of financing agreements for portable computer systems for students and educators from up to \$69,696,000 to up to \$95,000,000 and the interest costs from up to \$5,575,680 to up to \$7,600,000. The amount has been revised to include those costs borne by the school administrative units.

Part E of the bill adjusts appropriations from the General Fund for the expenditures of the Maine Arts Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Part F of the bill adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Maine State Museum for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-16)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment strikes Part C from the bill. Part C proposed to provide for the transfer of the payment for students who attend public charter schools authorized by the Maine Charter School Commission from the resident school administrative unit to the State.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 7 makes the following changes to the funding appropriated or allocated for certain education and cultural affairs programs in fiscal year 2014-15.

1. It adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.
2. It further adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.
3. It revises the amount of financing agreements for portable computer systems for students and educators from up to \$69,696,000 to up to \$95,000,000 and the interest costs from up to \$5,575,680 to up to \$7,600,000. The amount

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has been revised to include those costs borne by the school administrative units.

4. It adjusts appropriations from the General Fund for the expenditures of the Maine Arts Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

5. It adjusts appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of the Maine State Museum for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Public Law 2015, chapter 7 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 1, 2015.

LD 240 An Act To Amend the School Funding Formula

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOGAN COLLINS	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to amend the school funding formula.

LD 261 Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine State Museum Commission To Study the Replacement of Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection

RESOLVE 51

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON	OTP-AM	S-34

This resolve establishes the Commission to Install a Statue of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain in the National Statuary Hall Collection. The commission is directed to take steps necessary to result in the placement of a statue of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol. This statue will replace that of William King, Maine's first governor, the ownership of which may be transferred to the State, subject to the approval of the United States Congress's Joint Committee on the Library. The commission is directed to seek outside funding to fully fund the costs associated with carrying out the intent of the resolve.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-34)

This amendment replaces the resolve and directs the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine State Museum Commission to study the public's interest in replacing one or both statues contributed by Maine currently in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol and the procedures for and the feasibility of accomplishing that process. The commissions are required to report their findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2016, and the committee is authorized to report out a bill related to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 51 directs the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine State Museum Commission to study the public's interest in replacing one or both statues contributed by Maine currently in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol and the procedures for and the feasibility of accomplishing that process. It requires the commissions to report their findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2016, and it authorizes the committee to report out a

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bill related to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

LD 265 An Act To Require the State To Fund Public Charter Schools ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS DAVIS	ONTP	

This bill requires the State to provide full funding of public charter schools.

LD 300 An Act To Appropriate Funds To Help Restore the Historic Wood Island Life Saving Station in Kittery Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HILL RYKERSON	OTP-AM	S-2

This bill provides one-time funding to the Wood Island Life Saving Station Association for the planning, design and restoration of the Wood Island Life Saving Station in the Town of Kittery.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-2)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

While this bill was not enacted, the funding provision proposed in this bill was included in Public Law 2015, chapter 267, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

LD 305 An Act To Authorize Circus Conservatory of America To Grant Baccalaureate Degrees CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT MAKER		

This bill authorizes Circus Conservatory of America to grant the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 306 Resolve, To Prevent Overpayment for Virtual Education ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOHNSON HUBBELL	ONTP	

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This resolve requires the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, to design an essential programs and services funding model for virtual public charter schools that reflects evidence-based, appropriate costs to reduce the current overpayment made to virtual public charter schools for services, teachers and facilities that are not actually provided by the virtual public charter schools. This resolve requires the Department of Education to report the new funding model for virtual public charter schools to the Legislature by June 1, 2015.

LD 311 An Act To Improve Attendance at Public Elementary Schools

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY BROOKS	OTP-AM	S-22

This bill gives school boards the option of reducing the minimum age required for school attendance from seven years of age to five years of age. The bill also provides that students who are at least five years of age and enrolled in a public day school are subject to the same provisions regarding truancy as students who are seven years of age or older and who are required to attend a public day school.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-22)

This amendment strikes the bill and instead provides that a person five years of age or older who is enrolled in public day school is required to attend during the time it is in regular session. This amendment provides that a person five years of age or older and under seven years of age may withdraw from school at any time within the 45 days after enrollment, and may withdraw from school after 45 days after enrollment after consultation with the school board or its designee. This amendment provides that students who are at least five years of age and enrolled in a public day school are subject to the same provisions regarding truancy as students who are at least seven years of age and have not completed grade six who are required to attend a public day school. This amendment clarifies that a person five years of age or older and under seven years of age is not required to meet the alternatives to attendance requirements set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 5001-A, subsection 3.

LD 314 An Act To Amend the Administration of the Transportation System in the Department of Education

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

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

This bill amends the law allowing the Commissioner of Education to pay costs attributable to transportation requirements under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and the law governing the transportation of public school students, including the costs of one Education Specialist III position, by changing that position to an Administrator position.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-56)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment changes the position proposed in the bill from an "Administrator" position to a "professional" position.

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LD 318 An Act To Appropriate Funds to Kennebec Valley Community College ONTP
for its Programs in Allied Health

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NADEAU COLLINS	ONTP	

This bill provides funds for the Allied Health Department within Kennebec Valley Community College.

LD 338 An Act To Reduce Remedial Course Requirements at Maine Community ONTP
Colleges

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEARNS DILL	ONTP	

This bill requires that all students in grade 10 in a public school, public charter school or private school approved for tuition that enrolls at least 60 percent publicly funded students complete an academic achievement assessment established by the Department of Education and the State Board of Education. The President of the Maine Community College System must determine the scores on the assessment that conclusively indicate that a student will not need to enroll in remedial coursework while attending a college within the system. If a student whose score indicates that remedial coursework is required is accepted at and enrolls in a college within the system, the college must pay the costs of any remedial coursework the student may need to complete in the course of study declared at matriculation.

LD 350 An Act To Expedite MaineCare Payments for School Administrative PUBLIC 63
Units

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY GOLDEN	OTP-AM	S-16

This bill provides that the Department of Education must provide the transfer of payment to the Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of school administrative units no later than 90 days after the incurrence of the allowable school-based costs that represent the school administrative unit's portion of MaineCare payments. The detail of such deductions must be provided to the school administrative unit no later than 90 days after the incurrence of the allowable school-based costs.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-16)

This amendment replaces the bill. It ensures that the transfer of MaineCare seed payments for school administrative units are made pursuant to a schedule agreed upon by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education in a manner that remains in compliance with federal intergovernmental transfer requirements.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 63 ensures that the transfer of MaineCare seed payments for school administrative units are made pursuant to a schedule agreed upon by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education in a manner that remains in compliance with federal intergovernmental transfer requirements.

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LD 356 An Act To Permit the New England School of Dental Technology To Grant the Degree of Bachelor of Science CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHAW		

This bill authorizes the New England School of Dental Technology to grant the degree of Bachelor of Science beginning December 1, 2015.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 374 An Act To Require School Administrators To Complete 50 Hours of Direct Student Instruction To Be Recertified Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill provides that, beginning July 1, 2017, the statutory provisions related to the renewal of certificates for school administrators are amended to include the completion of at least 50 hours of direct student instruction as a qualification for renewal of the administrator's certificate. The bill also directs the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to provisionally adopt rules related to the renewal of certificates for school administrators no later than December 31, 2016.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-28)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment provides that, beginning July 1, 2017, the statutory provisions related to the renewal of certificates for school administrators are amended to permit the completion of at least 15 hours of academic instruction or involvement as a qualification for renewal of the administrator's certificate. Like the bill, the amendment directs the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to provisionally adopt rules related to the renewal of certificates for school administrators no later than December 31, 2016.

LD 380 Resolve, To Establish a Working Group To Aid with the End of Student Hunger ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND MCCLELLAN	ONTP	

The Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine, as authorized pursuant to Resolve 2013, chapter 107, submitted its final report to the 127th Legislature; among many other recommendations of the task force is a requirement that the Department of Education convene a working group by March 1, 2015 to review the opportunities and challenges of the Community Eligibility Provision in the United States Department of Agriculture, study best practices related to the Community Eligibility Provision for school administrative units, address barriers to the use of the Community Eligibility Provision and make recommendations to the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. The working group is required to complete and submit its report by April 30, 2015.

This resolve, an emergency measure, includes only that provision of the task force's recommendations regarding the

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formation of a working group to allow the working group to be convened and finish its work by the April 30, 2015 deadline.

LD 391 *Resolve, To Create a State-run Virtual Academy Providing Maine Students with Access to Online Learning through Their Existing School Districts* ONTP

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

This resolve does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder group to develop plans to establish online and digital learning opportunities, which may include a state-administered virtual academy and a state-administered digital learning exchange, that provide all public schools in the State access to online instruction, online courses and digital learning resources for their students.
2. It directs the stakeholder group, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to complete the design of online and digital learning opportunities for Maine students and submit a report, including findings and any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 1, 2015.
3. It directs the stakeholder group, in collaboration with school administrative units in the State, to develop a memorandum of understanding with the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School in New Hampshire to provide Maine secondary school students with access to virtual learning programs during the 2015-2016 school year.

LD 392 *An Act To Eliminate the Maine School Performance Grading System* Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHENETTE VALENTINO	ONTP OTP	

This bill prohibits the Department of Education from using a school performance grading system that uses a single letter grade to measure school performance.

LD 393 *An Act To Create a Unified Board of Higher Education* ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROTUNDO KATZ	ONTP	

This bill replaces the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System and the Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy with the Board of Trustees of Higher Education to provide a unified body for the governance of those institutions.

1. Part A makes changes to the law to replace some select references to the individual boards of trustees with references to the unified board and enacts a new chapter in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A with provisions

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that establish the new unified board.

2. Part B establishes a transition team to recommend further changes to the law to fully accomplish the transition to the unified board. The transition team will specifically recommend changes to determine the qualifications of trustees and the powers and duties of the unified board in a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The report of the transition team must also recommend changes to the administration or organization of and the existing law governing the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College System to ensure the efficient operation under the unified board and to avoid any potential conflicts with the law establishing the unified board. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature based upon the report.

LD 417 An Act Regarding Measures To Ensure Support for Students' Financial Literacy

PUBLIC 64

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-50

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to develop methods to measure students' proficiency in financial literacy for those students taking part in financial literacy education pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 254, subsection 13 in order to help ensure they can demonstrate proficiency prior to graduation. The Commissioner of Education shall submit by January 13, 2016 a report on the measures and any suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-50)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill to direct the Commissioner of Education to identify best practices to support students' financial literacy for those students taking part in financial literacy education pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 254, subsection 13. The amendment also requires the Commissioner of Education to submit, by January 13, 2016, the 2016 annual report on the strategies and resources available to implement an integrated model for instruction in personal finance for use in secondary schools and the best practices available to support students' financial literacy.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 64 directs the Commissioner of Education to identify best practices to support students' financial literacy for those students taking part in financial literacy education pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 254, subsection 13. The amendment also requires the Commissioner of Education to submit, by January 13, 2016, the 2016 annual report on the strategies and resources available to implement an integrated model for instruction in personal finance for use in secondary schools and the best practices available to support students' financial literacy.

LD 418 Resolve, To Study the Use of Social Impact Bonds as a Funding Mechanism for Public Education Programs in Maine

RESOLVE 52

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT LANGLEY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-10

This resolve requires the University of Maine System's Education Research Institute to study the use of social impact bonds to fund extended learning programs and prekindergarten programs. A social impact bond generally

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involves a government entity partnering with a service provider or outside investor that provides the financing for the project or service that is the object of the bond with the government entity not being required to pay back the bond unless success is demonstrated by a measurable outcome.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-10)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs as it incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 52 requires the University of Maine System's Education Research Institute to study the use of social impact bonds to fund extended learning programs and prekindergarten programs. The Education Research Institute must submit a report of this study, including any recommended legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 2, 2015. The committee may report out a bill based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

LD 419 An Act To Establish the Summer Success Program Fund

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)

PIERCE T

Committee Report

OTP-AM
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

H-450

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to amend the current law to promote the establishment and expansion of summer school programs for elementary and secondary school students. The bill proposes that:

1. Elementary and secondary schools be provided with additional resources and incentives to establish or expand summer school programs that enhance the academic opportunities for Maine students;
2. The Department of Education provide elementary and secondary schools with examples of effective models of summer school programs that improve student performance, including model programs that involve school networking and partnerships with community-based organizations such as the Maine Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs that provide summer activities to align and leverage existing resources, improve program quality and develop shared outcomes for student success; and
3. The current provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A related to funding summer school programs be amended to provide additional funds for the establishment and expansion of summer school programs for elementary and secondary school students. The amendments to the current law may include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Providing an adjustment of the state share of the total allocation to qualifying school administrative units for the costs of establishing or expanding summer school programs for elementary and secondary school students; or
 - B. Providing qualifying school administrative units with the allocation of state grants to be awarded on an annual basis by the Department of Education for the establishment and expansion of summer school programs for elementary and secondary school students.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-450)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the concept draft to establish the Summer Success Program Fund, a dedicated fund to be directed and administered by the Commissioner of Education and held by the Treasurer of State, to encourage the facilitation of high-quality summer success programs in school

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administrative units throughout the State. The amendment proposes 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 and money received from a social impact bond. 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 or 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 economically disadvantaged students and their peers;
 - 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 2016-17, the department is required to provide grant funding, through a grant application process, to cover 90 percent of the costs of summer success programs in school administrative units with greater than 50 percent 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, 2015 that outlines the proposed rules to implement the fund by the 2016-2017 school year.

It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 428 An Act To Amend the Powers and Duties of the State Board of Education

PUBLIC 72

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY KORNFIELD	OTP	

This bill specifically authorizes the State Board of Education to enter into an interstate reciprocity agreement regarding postsecondary distance education, to administer the agreement and to approve or disapprove an application to participate in the agreement from a postsecondary institution that has its principal campus in the State.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 72 specifically authorizes the State Board of Education to enter into an interstate reciprocity agreement regarding postsecondary distance education, to administer the agreement and to approve or

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disapprove an application to participate in the agreement from a postsecondary institution that has its principal campus in the State.

LD 441 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Local Share of Education Costs

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

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

This bill extends the remaining phase-out of the proportional share reduction for school administrative units not meeting their required local share of education funding from one more year, ending in fiscal year 2015-16, to three more years, ending in fiscal year 2017-18.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-45)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs; it incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 454 An Act To Enact the Student Information Privacy Act

PUBLIC 256

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ POULIOT	OTP-AM	S-222

This bill establishes requirements for providers of websites, mobile applications or online services that collect, maintain or use personal information of elementary or secondary school students.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-222)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment enacts the Student Information Privacy Act, which prohibits the operator of an Internet website, online service or mobile application designed, marketed and used for kindergarten to grade 12 purposes from presenting targeted advertising to students, amassing a profile of a student except in furtherance of school purposes, selling student data or disclosing student personally identifiable data without consent. The amendment permits an operator to disclose data in certain circumstances and under certain limitations, including to ensure legal and regulatory compliance, to participate in judicial process, for legitimate research purposes and for school purposes to a school, school administrative unit or state agency. The amendment requires an operator to maintain reasonable security procedures and practices to protect student data and requires an operator to delete data upon request of a school or school administrative unit. The amendment requires compliance with the Student Information Privacy Act by the 2016-2017 school year when an operator has signed a contract with the Department of Education, a school administrative unit or a school prior to enactment.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 256 enacts the Student Information Privacy Act, which prohibits the operator of an Internet website, online service or mobile application designed, marketed and used for kindergarten to grade 12 purposes from presenting targeted advertising to students, amassing a profile of a student except in furtherance of school purposes, selling student data or disclosing student personally identifiable data without consent. The law permits an operator to disclose data in certain circumstances and under certain limitations, including to ensure legal and regulatory compliance, to participate in judicial process, for legitimate research purposes and for school purposes to a school, school administrative unit or state agency. The law requires an operator to maintain reasonable security procedures and practices to protect student data and requires an operator to delete data upon

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request of a school or school administrative unit. The law requires compliance with the Student Information Privacy Act by the 2016-2017 school year when an operator has signed a contract with the Department of Education, a school administrative unit or a school prior to enactment.

**LD 461 An Act To Change the Notification Deadline for the Nonrenewal of a
Teacher's Contract**

PUBLIC 65

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAKER EDGECOMB P	OTP-AM	H-51

This bill changes the deadline for a superintendent to notify a teacher of the superintendent's decision not to renew the teacher's contract from at least six months before the terminal date of the contract to at least 90 days before the terminal date of the contract. It also requires the school administrative unit to pay a forfeiture to the teacher if this deadline is not met.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-51)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill to provide that the deadline for a superintendent to notify a teacher of the superintendent's decision not to renew the teacher's contract is at least six months before the terminal date of the contract except for teachers who received a summative effectiveness rating indicating ineffectiveness pursuant to the performance evaluation and professional growth system established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 508 for the preceding school year. The amendment also requires that unless the superintendent provides a written notice to the contrary not later than May 15th to a teacher who received a summative effectiveness rating indicating ineffectiveness pursuant to chapter 508 for the preceding school year, the teacher's contract must be extended automatically for one year.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 65 provides that the deadline for a superintendent to notify a teacher of the superintendent's decision not to renew the teacher's contract is at least six months before the terminal date of the contract except for teachers who received a summative effectiveness rating indicating ineffectiveness pursuant to the performance evaluation and professional growth system established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 508 for the preceding school year. The law also requires that unless the superintendent provides a written notice to the contrary not later than May 15th to a teacher who received a summative effectiveness rating indicating ineffectiveness pursuant to chapter 508 for the preceding school year, the teacher's contract must be extended automatically for one year.

**LD 462 An Act To Clarify Rulemaking for Transportation of Public School
Students**

PUBLIC 73

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-62

This bill removes from the education laws rule-making language regarding the transportation of public preschool students.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-62)

This amendment requires the Department of Education to adopt major substantive rules in the event that the Federal Government or the State requires transportation to be provided for public preschool children.

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Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 73 removes from the education laws rule-making language regarding the transportation of public preschool students. The law also requires the Department of Education to adopt major substantive rules in the event that the Federal Government or the State requires transportation to be provided for public preschool children.

LD 463 **An Act Regarding Eligibility of Children Placed in Guardianship for the School Lunch and Milk Program** **ONTP**

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

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

This bill proposes to provide that a student placed in legal guardianship is eligible for free meals under the school lunch and milk program in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 223, subchapter 7 without considering the income of the student's guardian.

LD 464 **An Act To Improve Science and Engineering Education for Maine's Students** **Veto Sustained**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN DILL	OTP-AM	H-43 S-60 LANGLEY

This bill requires the Department of Education to include the so-called Next Generation Science Standards for kindergarten to grade 12 in the State's system of learning results and assessment and directs the Commissioner of Education to amend Department of Education rules on or before December 31, 2015 in order to include the science standards as part of the State's system of learning results and assessment beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-43)

This amendment removes the requirement that the assessment of the Next Generation Science Standards for kindergarten to grade 12 must be implemented beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. The amendment also changes the language to clarify that the amendments to the Department of Education rules chapters must be provisionally adopted and submitted to the Legislature for legislative review during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-60)

This amendment changes the date by which the Department of Education is required to provisionally adopt rules from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2016 and requires the rules to be submitted to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

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**LD 536 An Act To Amend Provisions Regarding the Appointment of Members of
the Maine Charter School Commission**

**Died Between
Houses**

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

This bill amends the provisions that apply to the appointment of the four members of the Maine Charter School Commission, who are currently nominated and appointed by the three members of the State Board of Education subject only to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and majority vote of the state board, to provide instead for nomination by the three members of the state board for appointment by the Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and confirmation by the Senate.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-316)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment makes changes to the provisions in the bill that apply to the appointment of four of the seven members of the Maine Charter School Commission. Instead of having the Governor appoint the four commission members nominated by the three members of the State Board of Education appointed to the commission by the state board, the amendment provides that the four commission members are nominated by those three members of the state board appointed to the commission and are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and to confirmation by the Senate.

**LD 537 An Act To Avoid the Inappropriate Use of Assessment Tools on Children
before Grade 3**

PUBLIC 183

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAUGHTRY	OTP-AM	H-198

This bill prohibits the Commissioner of Education from establishing a statewide assessment program to measure and evaluate on a continuing basis the academic achievements of students in prekindergarten to grade two.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-198)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment adds a provision to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A related to the early childhood educational programs for children ages four to nine to clarify that early childhood statewide assessment tools are used to inform instruction and to communicate effectively with parents, but that the statewide assessments of early childhood programs must avoid the inappropriate use of assessment information.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 183 adds a provision to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A related to the early childhood educational programs for children ages four to nine to clarify that early childhood statewide assessment tools are used to inform instruction and to communicate effectively with parents, but that the statewide assessments of early childhood programs must avoid the inappropriate use of assessment information.

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LD 538 An Act To Reduce Fees at Maine's Postsecondary Institutions

ONTP

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

This bill prohibits a postsecondary institution from assessing a student a student health fee unless the student has expressly agreed to pay the fee.

**LD 556 An Act To Require Public Schools To Offer Instruction Related to
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the Use of an Automated External
Defibrillator**

PUBLIC 140

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT MILLETT	OTP-AM	H-122

This bill requires public schools to offer training to students on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use automated external defibrillators in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Education. The rules must be designed to ensure that the training requirements can be met without a public school's being required to expand or modify its activity so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-122)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 140 requires public schools to offer training to students on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use automated external defibrillators in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Education. The rules must be designed to ensure that the training requirements can be met without a public school's being required to expand or modify its activity so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

**LD 557 An Act To Provide Reasonable Accommodations for School Attendance
for Children Certified for the Medical Use of Marijuana**

PUBLIC 369

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANDERSON HAMPER	OTP-AM ONTP	H-207 S-148 LANGLEY

This bill:

1. Provides that a school board may not prohibit the possession on school grounds of medical marijuana in a nonsmokeable form by the parent or guardian of a child with a disability for whom medical marijuana has been recommended by the child's health care provider as a reasonable accommodation necessary for that child to attend events held on school grounds; and
2. Provides that a child with a disability may not be denied eligibility to attend school solely because the child requires medical marijuana in a nonsmokeable form as a reasonable accommodation necessary for the child to

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attend school.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-207)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment removes the provision in the bill that prohibits a school board from prohibiting possession of medical marijuana and instead provides that a parent, guardian or other person designated as a primary caregiver for a minor child certified for the medical use of marijuana may possess and administer marijuana in a nonsmokeable form to that child in a school bus or on the grounds of a preschool or primary or secondary school.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-148)

This amendment amends Committee Amendment "A" to strike and replace the provision in the bill that provides that a child upon a recommendation from the child's health care provider may not be denied eligibility to attend school solely because the child requires medical marijuana in a nonsmokeable form as a reasonable accommodation necessary for the child to attend school.

This amendment provides that a child who holds a written certification for the use of medical marijuana from a medical provider under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act may not be denied eligibility to attend school solely because the child requires medical marijuana in a nonsmokeable form as a reasonable accommodation necessary for the child to attend school.

This amendment retains the provisions in Committee Amendment "A" concerning the possession and administering of marijuana in a nonsmokeable form by a parent, guardian or other primary caregiver.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 369 provides that a child who holds a written certification for the use of medical marijuana from a medical provider under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act may not be denied eligibility to attend school solely because the child requires medical marijuana in a nonsmokeable form as a reasonable accommodation necessary for the child to attend school. This law also provides that a parent, guardian or other person designated as a primary caregiver for a minor child certified for the medical use of marijuana may possess and administer marijuana in a nonsmokeable form to that child in a school bus or on the grounds of a preschool or primary or secondary school.

LD 567 Resolve, To Implement Recommendations from the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education and Workforce Plan

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT MILLETT	ONTP OTP	

This bill requires the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder-based advisory committee with representatives from the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields, including computer science, to assist the department in developing and implementing recommendations made in the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education and Workforce Plan, including the adoption of next generation science standards in all school administrative units, and to determine the feasibility of implementing the other recommendations in the plan.

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LD 578 An Act To Redefine the Method by Which the Department of Education Determines Cost Sharing for School Construction and Renovation Projects for Municipalities within a School Administrative Unit Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to amend the current education statutes pertaining to the methods by which the Department of Education determines how the costs for school construction and renovation projects are shared among the member municipalities of a school administrative unit. The bill would implement:

1. An alternative method for determining the sharing of costs for a school construction or renovation project among member municipalities of a school administrative unit comparable to the methods established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1481-A, subsection 3; and
2. An amendment to the provisions of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act regarding the sharing of debt service costs related to school construction and renovation projects in order to more equitably distribute the local share of school construction and renovation project costs among the member municipalities of a school administrative unit by including the number of resident pupils in each municipality and the property fiscal capacity of each municipality as the basis for sharing the debt service costs related to school construction and renovation projects.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-263)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the concept draft. It provides an alternative method for determining cost sharing for school construction and renovation projects for the member municipalities within a school administrative district, community school district or regional school unit.

LD 579 An Act To Allow Teachers To Teach and Students To Learn by Amending the Laws Governing Education Standards ONTP

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

This bill repeals the requirements for a system of proficiency-based education standards scheduled to become effective in 2017.

LD 601 An Act To Clarify the Authority of Individualized Education Plans in Relation to Proficiency-based Diplomas ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	ONTP	

This bill allows a child with a disability who demonstrates proficiency through the use of evidence and alternative measures specified in the child's individualized education plan to be awarded a high school diploma.

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LD 627 An Act To Make College More Affordable for Maine Residents

**Died Between
Houses**

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

This bill changes the Maine State Grant Program by providing that grants awarded to students attending the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy or the Maine Community College System may not be less than \$2,500 for students attending their first year, \$3,500 for students attending their second year, \$4,500 for students attending their third year and \$5,500 for students attending their fourth year.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-221)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, requires that the Maine State Grants Program tiered awards proposed in the bill, if funds are available, must be made available to eligible students with no expected family contribution who attend private postsecondary education institutions, as well as those who attend public postsecondary education institutions, in the State.

LD 637 An Act Concerning the Calendars of Career and Technical Education Programs and Partnering Schools

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

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

This bill provides that the calendars of all schools affiliated with a career and technical education center or within a career and technical education region must be aligned within five to seven days of each other and with the regional school calendar, depending upon the number of schools sending students to the regional school.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-44)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 683 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of the Final Repeal of Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule That Has Been Provisionally Repealed by the Department of Education, State Board of Education

ONTP

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

This resolve provides for legislative review of Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education that was filed outside the legislative rule acceptance period.

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LD 685 **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education** **ONTP**

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

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 61: Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education that was filed outside the legislative rule acceptance period.

LD 692 **An Act Regarding Educator Effectiveness** **PUBLIC 3
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDGECOMB P MAKER	OTP-AM	S-3

This bill directs school administrative units to use state assessment data for English language arts and math as a measure of performance for teachers and as a measure of performance for principals. It clarifies the law regarding the usage of summative effectiveness ratings for certain categories of performance rating. It adds an additional component to the rules regarding monitoring of the performance evaluation and professional growth systems. The bill also directs the Department of Education to amend its rules regarding performance evaluation and professional growth systems.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-3)

This committee amendment makes the following changes to the components proposed in the bill to amend the Department of Education rules regarding the design and implementation of the performance evaluation and professional growth systems.

1. It strikes the proposed change to section 7, subsection 1 of the rules that would require school administrative units to develop a defensible approach to using student learning and growth as a significant factor in the summative effectiveness rating of an educator.
2. It strikes the individual education plan "IEP" language included in section 7, subsection 4 of the rule concerning Student Learning Objectives and IEP goals and adds a provision in section 7, subsection 3, paragraph F of the rule concerning Permissible Measures, to specify that an IEP may not be used as a measure of student learning and growth in the evaluation of an educator.
3. It amends the expedited amendment process provision in the bill to clarify that the Department of Education shall adopt the amendments to the department's Chapter 180 Rule as provided in this Act within seven business days of the effective date of this Act.
4. It changes the deadline date established for stakeholder groups to reach consensus on the performance evaluation and professional growth system in section 12, subsection 1, paragraphs D and E of the rules, from June 1, 2015 to July 15, 2015.
5. It adds a provision to require that each school administrative unit shall submit to the Department of Education by

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July 15, 2015 a plan describing the intentions of its pilot project.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 3 clarifies the law regarding the usage of summative effectiveness ratings for certain categories of performance rating for teachers and principals. The law directs school administrative units to use state assessment data for English language arts and math as a measure of performance for teachers and as a measure of performance for principals. It also adds an additional component to the Department of Education's Chapter 180 rules regarding monitoring of the performance evaluation and professional growth systems and directs the department to amend its rules regarding performance evaluation and professional growth systems.

Public Law 2015, chapter 3 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 17, 2015.

LD 695 An Act To Clarify Statewide Assessment Program Options Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GIDEON LIBBY	ONTP OTP-AM	H-295

This bill requires a school administrative unit to excuse a student from standardized assessments at the written request of the student's parent or guardian and establishes requirements for school administrative units and the Department of Education related to excusing a student.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-295)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill to require the Department of Education, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, to create an annual report that outlines the federal and state laws and judicial decisions relating to the right or option of a student's parent or guardian to excuse the student from a statewide assessment program administered as part of the system of learning results. This amendment allows an educator to discuss the information published in the department's report with a student's parent or guardian and also allows the educator to refer the parent or guardian to the school's principal or another administrator employed by the school administrative unit.

LD 696 An Act To Establish a Moratorium on the Establishment of Virtual Charter Schools Died Between Houses

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

This bill provides that the Maine Charter School Commission may not authorize the operation of any virtual public charter school until the Legislature enacts legislation that expressly authorizes the operation of virtual public charter schools in the State. The moratorium applies to the operations of any virtual public charter school that has not commenced operations as of the effective date of this legislation, regardless of whether the commission has approved, authorized or executed a contract for the virtual public charter school.

The bill amends the definition of "virtual public charter school" to specify that virtual public charter schools provide education services through an online learning program that enrolls students on a part-time basis in grades nine to 12. The bill also requires the Maine Charter School Commission to review the law and the virtual public charter school models that have been implemented in other states and develop a virtual public charter school model that will best serve the learning needs of students. The virtual public charter school model developed must apply only to

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part-time students in grades nine to 12 and must place emphasis on blended learning models for high school students.

The Maine Charter School Commission is directed to report its findings, recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation with respect to the authorization or operation of virtual public charter schools to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 1, 2015 and authorizes the joint standing committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature related to the recommendations included in this report.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-156)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment strikes the provisions in the bill that specify that a virtual public charter school may enroll students only on a part-time basis and amends provisions in the bill to indicate that a virtual public charter school enrolls students on a full-time basis. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 711 An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools

**Accepted Minority
(ONTP) Report**

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

This bill requires that, by September 1, 2017, each school administrative unit ensure that its secondary schools' school days start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and that there be at least 11 consecutive hours of uninterrupted time from the end of a class, extracurricular activity, athletic practice or any other school activity to the start of the next school day. A school administrative unit is required to submit a compliance plan. Units that do not comply face reductions in the state share of funding attributable to the cost of the components of essential programs and services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-123)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment changes the earliest allowed school day start time for secondary schools proposed in the bill from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and eliminates the requirement in the bill that a secondary school within a school administrative unit must allow 11 consecutive hours between school activities and the next school day. The amendment also eliminates the requirement in the bill that a school administrative unit provide a plan to adopt a later school start time in its secondary schools.

LD 725 An Act To Increase Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Maine Public Schools

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO NUTTING	ONTP	

This bill requires a school administrative unit to complete and file proof of completion of suicide prevention awareness education and suicide prevention and intervention training for school personnel with the Department of Education. It also requires health education provided by a school administrative unit to students in grades 8 to 12 to include a comprehensive suicide prevention program.

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LD 728 An Act To Limit the Amount of Money a Municipality May Spend on ONTP
Education

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WOODSOME	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This bill provides that, beginning with the 2016 tax year, it is the goal and policy of the State that the amount of property taxes distributed by a municipality for education under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act may not exceed 55 percent of the state valuation of the municipality's property subject to the valuation filed with the Secretary of State. The bill also provides that a municipality is not required to pay more than 55 percent of the funds raised by local property taxes for the municipality's required contribution to the school administrative unit's total cost of education unless a majority of the elected officials of the municipality approve raising and expending funds appropriated through local taxation for educational purposes that exceed 55 percent of the state valuation of the municipality's property.

LD 749 An Act To Ensure Integrity in Students' Proficiency ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HEAD	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This bill provides that a teacher other than the teacher involved in the instruction of the students taking an examination in the subject area of the examination must administer and evaluate the results of the examination when it is used to determine proficiency in the areas described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 2.

LD 763 An Act To Change the Budget Approval Process for Alternative PUBLIC 286
Organizational Structures

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TUELL BURNS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-400
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This bill changes the school budget approval process for alternative organizational structures. Current law requires that a change in who approves a budget must be approved at the next statewide election. The bill requires that such a determination of who approves a budget must be approved at a special meeting authorized by a majority of the governing body of the alternative organizational structure rather than at the next statewide election.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-400)

This amendment makes changes to the provisions in the bill that apply to the school budget approval process for alternative organizational structures. Current law requires that a change in who approves a budget must be approved at the next statewide election. The bill requires that such a determination of who approves a budget must be approved at a special meeting authorized by a majority of the governing body of the alternative organizational structure rather than at the next statewide election. The amendment provides that the determination of the school budget approval process must be approved at the next regular election or special election of all of the member entities of the alternative organizational structure. The amendment also provides that a referendum authorized for this purpose must be called and conducted by the governing body of the alternative organizational structure in accordance with the procedures for calling and conducting a referendum in a regional school unit as set forth in the

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Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, under section 1502, but not including subsection 2, and section 1503.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 286 makes changes to the current law that applies to the school budget approval process for alternative organizational structures. This law provides that the determination of the school budget approval process must be approved at the next regular election or special election of all of the member entities of the alternative organizational structure. The law also provides that a referendum authorized for this purpose must be called and conducted by the governing body of the alternative organizational structure in accordance with the procedures for calling and conducting a referendum in a regional school unit as set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, under section 1502, but not including subsection 2, and section 1503.

LD 764	Resolve, To Impose a One-year Delay on the Use of Standardized Tests To Evaluate Teachers	Veto Sustained
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCELWEE MILLETT	ONTP OTP-AM	H-264 H-354 KORNFIELD

This resolve prohibits school administrative units from using the Maine Educational Assessment for Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy standardized tests administered prior to the 2017-18 school year to measure educator effectiveness.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-264)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment changes the resolve's provision from a two-year delay to a one-year delay prohibiting school administrative units from using the Maine Educational Assessment for Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy standardized tests to measure educator effectiveness.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-354)

This amendment removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the resolve.

LD 784	An Act To Authorize a Revenue Bond for a Student Loan Reduction Plan	CARRIED OVER
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT VALENTINO	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill authorizes the Finance Authority of Maine to issue revenue bonds in the amount of \$40,000,000 to fund a student loan reduction plan in order to allow residents of the State to refinance student loans.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-228)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, strikes the bill's proposal to provide \$40,000,000 in funds from a revenue bond and replaces the bill with a proposal to provide \$5,000,000 by a General Fund bond issue to implement a student loan reduction plan administered by the Finance Authority of Maine that will allow residents of the State to refinance or consolidate student loans.

This bill was committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 994 as amended by H-504.

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LD 793 Resolve, To Examine Unfunded Mandates in the Education Laws and ONTP
To Recommend Unfunded Mandates To Be Eliminated

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

This resolve establishes a work group to examine unfunded mandates in the education laws. The work group is charged with reviewing three reports on unfunded education mandates and determining which unfunded mandates have been addressed, which ones still exist and which ones should be addressed as a matter of priority. The work group is required to make recommendations as to how to best address those unfunded mandates determined to be priorities and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 2, 2015. The joint standing committee may submit a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

LD 794 An Act To Ensure That Funding to the University of Maine System Is ONTP
Used Efficiently

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

This bill requires that the University of Maine System allocate a certain percentage of its annual funding to faculty salaries, classroom technology and supplies directly related to student learning in the classroom.

LD 840 An Act To Collect and Report Data on the Implementation of PUBLIC 367
Proficiency-based Diplomas and Standards-based Student Learning

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-292

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to require the State to advance implementation of proficiency-based diplomas and a standards-based system of education by using strategic planning, monitoring and economies of scale to accelerate implementation of the diplomas and system at the local level. The bill proposes to meet these goals by:

1. Requiring the Department of Education to develop a five-year plan and budget to outline strategic supports for the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A and submit the plan and budget to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 31, 2016;
2. Requiring the Department of Education annually to collect and report progress towards the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas in public schools, public charter schools and private schools under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 2951, subsection 5, including the number of students graduating with proficiency-based diplomas and the number of students awarded proficiency in each of the content areas of the system of learning results established under Title 20-A, section 6209 and the guiding principles set forth in department rules governing implementation of the system of learning results established pursuant to Title 20-A, section 6209;
3. Maintaining school administrative unit per-pupil subsidies at the current rate;

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4. Providing competitive grants to regional district partnerships and nonprofit organizations to address statewide priorities and involve the State's business and higher education communities in delivering consistent messages about standards and proficiency, create a statewide research and development process to solve complex implementation problems and provide on-site consultation in curriculum, instruction, assessment and organizational change, increase local knowledge in key implementation areas and build local support systems and services; and

5. Requiring the Department of Education to contract with an external organization through a request for proposals process to develop, administer and track the competitive grant process and report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs, the Commissioner of Education and the public on the progress of the implementation of a standards-based system of education and emerging needs as the needs arise.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-292)

This amendment strikes and replaces the concept draft with a bill that directs the Department of Education to annually collect and report data on the progress of public schools and public charter schools towards the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas, including the number of students graduating with proficiency-based diplomas and the number of students awarded proficiency in each of the content areas and in each of the guiding principles of the system of learning results established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 367 directs the Department of Education to annually collect and report data on the progress of public schools and public charter schools towards the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas, including the number of students graduating with proficiency-based diplomas and the number of students awarded proficiency in each of the content areas and in each of the guiding principles of the system of learning results established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209.

LD 852	An Act To Establish Maine's School Beverage Standards	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HICKMAN	ONTP	

This bill limits the beverages public schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program may sell to water, 100 percent fruit or vegetable juice with no added sugar, no-fat or low-fat milk, including flavored milk and sparkling water with natural flavoring.

LD 853	An Act To Allow Secondary Schools To Grant Certificates of Academic Proficiency	PUBLIC 342
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-294 S-324 HAMPER

This bill authorizes school administrative units to award certificates of content area proficiency to students who demonstrate proficiency in each content area of the system of learning results.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-294)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, provides that if a school administrative unit awards a certificate of content area proficiency to a student who demonstrates proficiency in a particular content area of the

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system of learning results, the school administrative unit is required to report its issuance of certificates of content area proficiency to the Department of Education.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-324)

This amendment strikes the provision in the committee amendment to the bill that requires the Department of Education to collect and aggregate data reported by school administrative units that submit reports of certificates of content area proficiency issued to students who demonstrate proficiency. The amendment replaces this requirement with permissive language that allows the department to collect and report aggregate data reported by school administrative units.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 342 authorizes school administrative units to award certificates of content area proficiency to students who demonstrate proficiency in each content area of the system of learning results. The law provides that if a school administrative unit awards a certificate of content area proficiency to a student who demonstrates proficiency in a particular content area of the system of learning results, the school administrative unit is required to report its issuance of certificates of content area proficiency to the Department of Education. The law also permits the department to collect and report aggregate data reported by school administrative units that submit reports of certificates of content area proficiency issued to students who demonstrate proficiency.

LD 876 An Act To Encourage Equity in School Funding by Limiting a Municipality's Contribution Based on Its Student Enrollment ONTP

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

In the case of a school administrative district, community school district or regional school unit composed of more than one municipality, this bill limits the municipal contribution to the total cost of education to the essential programs and services, EPS, per-pupil rate multiplied by the municipality's most recent calendar year average pupil count.

LD 877 Resolve, To Study the Fort Norumbega Site in Bucksport ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL R ROSEN	ONTP	

This resolve requires the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to provide assistance to the Town of Bucksport to study the site in the Town of Bucksport that is considered to be the site of a French-built fort called Fort Norumbega.

LD 878 An Act To Support College Affordability in Maine PUBLIC 103

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIPPING-SPITZ	OTP-AM	H-108

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to enact measures designed to reduce the costs associated with higher education in order to encourage resident students to remain in the State to attend

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school, and nonresident students to come to the State to attend school.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-108)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. It allows the Finance Authority of Maine to provide consolidation loans for student debt of Maine students as part of its existing Higher Education Loan and Loan Insurance Program.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 103 allows the Finance Authority of Maine to provide consolidation loans for student debt of Maine students as part of its existing Higher Education Loan and Loan Insurance Program.

LD 933	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine	Died On Adjournment
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND HICKMAN	OTP-AM	S-147

This bill implements the recommendations of the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine as follows.

1. The bill establishes the Commission To End Student Hunger, an ongoing commission of 17 appointed members, which is directed to work to implement a five-year plan to end student hunger, is authorized to conduct a statewide summit of state leaders to end student hunger and is required to advise four hunger coordinators who will assist in implementing the five-year plan.
2. The bill provides that the full costs of school nutrition are subsidizable costs in the state education funding formula.
3. The bill directs the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate to reduce student hunger. The bill requires the two departments to meet quarterly to collaborate on child hunger and nutrition programs. The bill requires the two departments to provide quarterly reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and to the Commission To End Student Hunger. The bill requires the two departments to expand access to departmental data and to provide each school administrative unit and school with analyses of its existing child nutrition programs and their funding and federal funding not being used. The bill requires child nutrition data to be publicly available on the websites of the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a grant program to assist schools and school administrative units in ending student hunger.
4. The bill requires the Department of Education to convene a working group by March 1, 2015 to review the opportunities and challenges of the community eligibility provision administered by the United States Department of Agriculture and study best practices and barriers related to the community eligibility provision and make recommendations to the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill requires the Department of Education to submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor by April 30, 2015.
5. The bill requires the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to encourage the congressional delegation of the State to make participation in federal meals and snacks programs for students easier for school administrative units and nonprofit organizations and to make administration of the programs easier for the departments.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-147)

The amendment reduces the number of members of the Commission To End Student Hunger from 17 to 11 and

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includes an evaluation of the community schools in operation during the prior school year. The bill also authorizes the Department of Education to provide funding, including funds allocated for a five-year pilot project beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, to support the implementation of community schools.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-131)

This amendment reduces the number of schools the Department of Education is authorized to designate for the purpose of the pilot project as community schools from five as in the bill to three. The amendment reduces the maximum annual state allocations for community schools in the pilot project authorized under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 333 from \$250,000 as in the bill to \$150,000. The amendment also removes the reporting requirements of school boards and the Commissioner of Education regarding community schools that are required in the bill. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

While this bill was not enacted, the provisions proposed in this amendment were included in Public Law 2015, chapter 267, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditure of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

**LD 968 An Act To Expand Access to Affordable Higher Education and To INDEF PP
Strengthen Workforce Development**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY BRYANT		

This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$1,300,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2015-16 to the Southern Maine Community College to increase economic development and provide support for operations and key educational programs at the Midcoast Campus at Brunswick Landing.

While this bill was not enacted, the funding provision proposed in this bill was amended and included in Public Law 2015, chapter 267, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

This bill was not referred to a committee.

LD 981 An Act To Establish a Veterinary School CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN J		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to establish a veterinary school.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

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LD 985 An Act To Align Maine's School Marketing Law with Current Federal Food Standards Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAUGHTRY	OTP-AM	H-157 S-207 KATZ

This bill updates the school food and beverage marketing law by requiring the Department of Education, beginning October 1, 2015, to adopt rules regarding the marketing, advertising or promotion of food in school buildings and on school grounds to ensure compliance with the most recent federal regulations adopted pursuant to Section 204 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. It also requires the Department of Education to adopt rules prohibiting the marketing, advertising or promotion of beverages except for water, 100 percent juice and low-fat milk in school buildings or on school grounds.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-157)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment requires the Department of Education to adopt major substantive rules that limit the sale and marketing of foods and beverages in school buildings and on school grounds to those foods and beverages that may be sold in schools under federal regulations, with the exception of diet soda. This amendment sets an effective date of October 1, 2015.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-207)

This amendment specifies that a program that provides a student with free or discounted food or beverages as a reward is prohibited but a program that provides funding to a school or school administrative unit in exchange for purchases of food or beverages is not prohibited, as long as that program is not marketed on school grounds.

LD 1033 Resolve, To Assist the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System To Reduce the Need for Remedial Education CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND		

This resolve is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The resolve proposes to require the Department of Education to analyze the data for the last three academic years from public and private secondary schools regarding the number of students needing remedial education at the postsecondary level and the graduation rates of those students from postsecondary programs. The department is required to determine what methods are used by those schools with high graduation rates among students requiring remedial education and determine how to use those methods in other schools that do not have graduation rates as high. This resolve provides \$1,000,000, disbursed by the department, to assist schools with low rates of graduation among its remedial education students to adopt methods of increasing the graduation rates of those students.

This resolve was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

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LD 1042 Resolve, To Create the Task Force on School Leadership

**RESOLVE 46
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY FARNSWORTH	OTP-AM	S-162 S-332 MASON

This resolve establishes the Task Force on School Leadership to conduct a comprehensive study on excellence in school leadership in prekindergarten to grade 12 public schools.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-162)

This amendment changes the task force membership by adding a middle school principal and adding a teacher who has a school administrator certificate.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-332)

This amendment removes one Senate member and one House of Representatives member from the Task Force on School Leadership and limits the task force to two meetings.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 46 establishes the Task Force on School Leadership to conduct a comprehensive study on excellence in school leadership in prekindergarten to grade 12 public schools. The task force must submit a report, including its findings, recommendations and suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 2, 2015. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Resolve 2015, chapter 46 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective July 12, 2015.

LD 1047 An Act To Allow for Collaboration in Public Charter Schools

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

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

This bill clarifies that a public charter school may enroll students from outside the State and accept tuition for those students if there is space available because the public charter school did not reach its full capacity under the public charter school's application. The bill provides that a public charter school also may admit out-of-state students if the public charter school's proposed vision or plans according to the public charter school's application would be enhanced by the attendance of students from outside the State. The bill also allows a public charter school to operate in association with a private school if the public charter school complies with the provisions in law concerning public charter schools, the public charter school's operations comply with the public charter school's contract and the public charter school's finances are accounted for separately from the finances of the private school.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-208)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment clarifies that a public charter school may enroll students from outside the State and accept tuition for those students if there is space available because the public charter school did not reach its capacity under the public

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charter school's application and the public charter school's proposed vision and plans according to the public charter school's application would be enhanced by the attendance of students from outside the State. The amendment also strikes the provision in the bill that allows a public charter school to operate in association with a private school if the public charter school complies with the provisions in law concerning public charter schools, the public charter school's operations comply with the public charter school's contract and the public charter school's finances are accounted for separately from the finances of the private school.

LD 1048 An Act To Allow School Administrative District No. 27 To Transfer Ownership of the St. Francis Elementary School to the Town of St. Francis

**P & S 4
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN J EDGECOMB P	OTP	

This emergency bill authorizes the board of directors of School Administrative District No. 27 to transfer ownership of the St. Francis Elementary School building and its site to the Town of St. Francis, subject to the approval of the voters of the Town of St. Francis. The bill authorizes the municipal officers of the Town of St. Francis to lease a portion of the St. Francis Elementary School building and its site back to School Administrative District No. 27 for educational purposes, and, subject to applicable law, the town's municipal officers are authorized to renovate, use, lease, sell, mortgage or otherwise convey the property, subject to any leasehold rights of School Administrative District No. 27 for educational purposes. The bill also provides that, as long as School Administrative District No. 27 leases any portion of the property, the other uses of the property must be compatible with use of the property for educational purposes as reasonably determined by the district's board of directors.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 4 authorizes the board of directors of School Administrative District No. 27 to transfer ownership of the St. Francis Elementary School building and its site to the Town of St. Francis, subject to the approval of the voters of the Town of St. Francis. The law authorizes the municipal officers of the Town of St. Francis to lease a portion of the St. Francis Elementary School building and its site back to School Administrative District No. 27 for educational purposes, and, subject to applicable law, the town's municipal officers are authorized to renovate, use, lease, sell, mortgage or otherwise convey the property, subject to any leasehold rights of School Administrative District No. 27 for educational purposes. The law also provides that, as long as School Administrative District No. 27 leases any portion of the property, the other uses of the property must be compatible with use of the property for educational purposes as reasonably determined by the district's board of directors.

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 4 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 30, 2015.

LD 1064 Resolve, To Establish the Maine Summer Success Program

ONTP

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

This resolve directs the Department of Education to develop the Maine Summer Success Program, which would use the results of a series of tests in order to identify students who are not achieving their grade levels of competence and to see who would benefit from attendance at such a program. The department is directed to explore the use of social impact bonds to fund the program. The department is to report its development plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 2, 2015.

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LD 1081 An Act To Change the Individualized Education Program Notice Requirements

Died Between Houses

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

This bill requires that the notification to a parent of a child with a disability informing the parent of the parent's right to be a member of the child's individualized education program team must include notice that the parent has 14 days to object to any proposal by a school administrative unit for the placement of the child and that the parent or school administrative unit may request alternative dispute resolution.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-209)

This amendment which is the minority report of the committee, reduces the time a parent or guardian of a child with a disability has to object to any proposals by a school administrative unit for the placement of the child from 14 days, as provided in the bill, to seven days.

LD 1082 An Act To Ensure Equitable Support of Education for Maine Students in School Administrative District No. 6 and School Administrative District No. 44

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
AUSTIN CUSHING	OTP-AM	

This bill eliminates the exemption for member municipalities in School Administrative District No. 6 and School Administrative District No. 44 from the standard municipal cost-sharing arrangement. For purposes of the cost-sharing calculation between these member municipalities in these two school administrative districts, the valuation and per-pupil figures for the member municipalities must both be set to 50 percent. The bill also repeals the prohibition against the withdrawal of the Town of Frye Island from School Administrative District No. 6.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-261)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and requires the Town of Frye Island and the other member municipalities in School Administrative District No. 6 or their representatives to negotiate in good faith in order to reach a settlement of the disputes between the member municipalities regarding the formula for computing each municipality's assessment for the total expenses of the school district and the provisions for the Town of Frye Island to withdraw from the school district. The amendment also requires that the member municipalities present a report that includes their findings and recommendations regarding changes to the formula for apportionment of kindergarten to grade 12 education costs of the member municipalities and to the statutes related to the authorization and procedures necessary for the Town of Frye Island to withdraw from the school district to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 11, 2015. Finally, the amendment provides that the joint standing committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature regarding its recommendations on the report submitted by the member municipalities to settle these disputes.

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LD 1118 Resolve, To Establish the Study Commission on the Social Emotional Learning and Development of Maine's Young Children **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BREEN MALABY	ONTP	

This resolve creates the Study Commission on the Social Emotional Learning and Development of Maine's Young Children to promote the social emotional learning and development of young children and reduce expulsions in early child care and education settings in the State by making an inventory of policies, rules, funding and services regarding early child care and education in the State and making recommendations, including suggested legislation, to strengthen the support for young children's social emotional learning and development and to address young children's behavioral needs.

LD 1141 An Act To Promote Degree Completion by Maine Community College Students **Died On Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAUGHTRY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-262

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposes to implement a comprehensive strategy to increase the affordability of tuition at state public universities and colleges for Maine residents, thereby increasing the graduation rate from those state public institutions of higher education, and to attract to and keep in Maine young professionals. The comprehensive strategy may include, but is not limited to:

1. Establishing a textbook scholarship program, in coordination with the public institutions of higher education to provide scholarships for the purchase of textbooks at those institutions. The scholarships would be available to graduates of Maine high schools who have a grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale;
2. Establishing scholarships or providing incentives for degree completion with agreements to remain in the State after graduation for specified periods. Under this program, a full scholarship for the fourth and final year of school at a Maine public institution of higher education would be provided to students who agree to work in the State for a certain period of time following graduation;
3. Requiring the Department of Education and the Finance Authority of Maine cooperatively to issue low-interest student loans to students attending a public or private institution of higher education in this State who meet certain criteria, such as financial need, academic merit, graduating within four years or agreeing to work in public service for a certain period after graduation;
4. Requiring the Finance Authority of Maine to establish additional tax credits, state grants and other forms of financial aid for higher education for residents of this State who are graduates from a Maine public institution of higher education and an education loan repayment program for all graduates of an institution of higher education who are residents of this State;
5. Establishing a loan repayment program for graduates employed in certain high-demand fields in this State;
6. Establishing goals for college graduation attainment for the next 25 years;

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7. Exploring the development of an entity, such as a board of regents, to oversee higher education in this State in order to best serve the higher education needs of the residents and businesses of this State; and

8. Establishing a pilot project, based on Oregon's "Pay Forward, Pay Back" model, under which a student enrolled in a public institution of higher education, in lieu of paying tuition or fees, contracts to pay the State a certain percentage of the student's annual income following graduation for a specified number of years. The pilot project would eventually replace the current system of charging a resident of the State tuition and fees for enrollment at a state public institution of higher education. The pilot project would:
 - A. Allow a student who is a resident of the State and who qualifies for admission to an institution to enroll in the institution without paying tuition or fees;

 - B. Provide that, in lieu of paying tuition or fees, the student must sign a binding contract to pay to the State or the institution for a specified number of years a certain percentage of the student's annual adjusted gross income upon graduation from the institution;

 - C. Specify the number of years and the percentage of annual adjusted gross income for contracts at each participating institution and base the specifications on research to date; and

 - D. Establish a funding source for the first 15 to 20 years of the pilot project and a revolving fund into which payments made under the pilot project are deposited to provide long-term funding.

A pilot project may include variations by specific institution depending on the total cost of education at the institution, the portion of the cost that is paid by the State, the number of years of student repayment specified in the contract and the percentage of annual adjusted gross income specified in the contract.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-262)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the concept draft with a bill to appropriate funds from the General Fund to the Maine Community College System for adding College Navigator positions and expanding student work study opportunities.

LD 1152 An Act To Amend the Definition of "Property Fiscal Capacity" in the School Funding Law To Address Inequities Affecting Municipalities Experiencing Significant Reductions in Value ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY PATRICK	ONTP	

Current law defines a municipality's fiscal capacity for the purpose of calculating the local share and state share of the cost of public kindergarten to grade 12 education as the average state valuation for the municipality over a three-year period prior to the most recently certified state valuation. In order to avoid overstating the fiscal capacity of a municipality that has experienced a significant loss in value of 2 percent or more attributable to a single taxpayer, this bill resets the three-year period to average state valuations for those municipalities going forward, beginning with the first year the municipality's certified state valuation reflects that significant loss in value.

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LD 1153 An Act To Restore Local Control of Education to Towns

ONTP

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

This bill repeals the laws governing proficiency-based graduation requirements. It provides that a school administrative unit may elect to opt out of the so-called Common Core State Standards and statewide student assessments. It provides that a school administrative unit may establish a method of transferring funds to a public charter school that is an alternative to the current method. It makes it optional, instead of mandatory, for a school administrative unit to develop and implement a performance evaluation and professional growth system for educators.

LD 1173 An Act To Improve School Administrative Efficiency and Expand Capacity for Professional Growth for Educators with Regional Collaborative Programs and Services

PUBLIC 251

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-293

This bill amends the education statutes related to regional collaboration between school administrative units to deliver certain administrative, instructional and noninstructional functions. The bill facilitates the transformation of the public education system in the State by providing grant funding from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to support regional collaborative agreements between two or more school administrative units and, whenever possible, with local and county governments and State Government or with any public institution of higher education or nonprofit corporation to achieve efficiencies and reduce costs in the delivery of collaborative programs and support services related to:

1. Standards that guide curriculum and instruction and promote student advancement and graduation based on student demonstration of proficiency in meeting educational standards pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A; and
2. Professional development standards that foster access to professional development, training and support for teachers and principals and expand opportunities for professional growth for teachers and principals pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 508.

The bill also requires the Department of Education to provisionally adopt amendments to rules established for the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services in order to align the awarding of grant funds to school administrative units with the provisions amended by this bill beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-293)

The amendment makes the following changes to the bill:

1. It removes the functions proposed in the bill for inclusion in the regional collaboration agreements included in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 114;
2. It restores the statutory provision in Title 20-A, chapter 114-A that provides grant funding to one or more school administrative units, municipalities and counties from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to

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support the improvement of educational opportunities and student achievement;

3. It amends the criteria established for providing grant funds from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to expand access to professional development, training and support for teachers and school administrators by requiring that priority must be given to high-quality professional development initiatives aligned with evidence-based best practices that can be linked to improvements in student learning and expansion of opportunities for professional growth for teachers and principals pursuant to the educator effectiveness provisions established in Title 20-A, chapter 508; and

4. It removes the requirement that the Department of Education amend the rules established for the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 251 facilitates the transformation of the public education system in the State by providing grant funding from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services to support regional collaborative agreements between one or more school administrative units and, whenever possible, with local and county governments and State Government or with any public institution of higher education or nonprofit corporation to achieve efficiencies and reduce costs in the delivery of collaborative programs and support services related to:

1. Standards that guide curriculum and instruction and promote student advancement and graduation based on student demonstration of proficiency in meeting educational standards pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A; and

2. Professional development standards that foster access to professional development, training and support for teachers and principals and expand opportunities for professional growth for teachers and principals pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 508.

LD 1180 An Act To Require Education in Public Preschool Programs and Elementary Schools Regarding Child Sexual Abuse

PUBLIC 292

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAKER DIAMOND	OTP-AM	H-353

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop model policies and a program of technical assistance for child sexual abuse response policies and reporting procedures and for age-appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse detection and prevention that may be used as part of the basic course of study in public preschool programs and elementary schools. The bill requires the Department of Education to make the model policies and technical assistance program available no later than March 1, 2016 to assist school administrative units with the implementation of child sexual abuse education programs and child sexual abuse response policies and reporting procedures in public preschool programs and kindergarten to grade five.

The bill requires that, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the basic course of study for elementary schools must include age-appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse detection and prevention for all students enrolled in public preschool programs and kindergarten to grade five. The bill requires a school administrative unit that operates a public preschool program or an elementary school to develop a prevention plan, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, that includes a written local policy and an implementation plan for the child sexual abuse education programs and child sexual abuse response policies and reporting procedures.

The bill also requires the commissioner to review the content standards and performance indicators for the content area of health education, including age-appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse detection and prevention during the 2015-2016 school year as part of the commissioner's five-year review cycle of the content standards and

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performance indicators required under the system of learning results.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-353)

This amendment adds a mandate preamble.

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment changes the model policy provisions of the bill to provide that the Commissioner of Education must develop a model policy on child sexual abuse prevention education and response for public preschool programs and elementary schools. The amendment requires the Department of Education to develop the model policy by July 1, 2016, to make the model policy available to school administrative units and to assist school administrative units in developing their own policies for child sexual abuse prevention education and response, based upon the model policy, which schools must develop for the 2017-2018 school year.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 292 provides that the Commissioner of Education must develop a model policy on child sexual abuse prevention education and response for public preschool programs and elementary schools. The law requires the Department of Education to develop the model policy by July 1, 2016, to make the model policy available to school administrative units and to assist school administrative units in developing their own policies for child sexual abuse prevention education and response, based upon the model policy, which schools must develop for the 2017-2018 school year.

LD 1198	An Act To Improve Representation on the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO	ONTP	

This bill requires that one member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System be a full-time faculty member of the university system and directs the Governor to make every effort to appoint one member with a strong agricultural background.

LD 1207	Resolve, To Implement an Online Professional Development Platform for Teachers and Educators	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL LANGLEY	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Education to conduct research and design a plan to implement an online platform that provides Maine teachers and educators with access to comprehensive, high-quality professional development and training resources that can advance teacher effectiveness and improve student performance. The department is required to report the results of the research, along with any recommended legislation to execute the plan, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 2, 2015.

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LD 1220 An Act To Increase Funding for the Maine Community College System

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCABE LIBBY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-107

This bill provides a five percent increase in appropriations to the Maine Community College System for the 2015-2016 biennium.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-107)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

**LD 1222 An Act To Remove Barriers to School Construction Financing in
Regional School Units**

PUBLIC 181

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BABBIDGE COLLINS	OTP-AM	H-197

This bill authorizes a regional school unit to issue bonds that may be repaid using a level debt payment structure.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-197)

This amendment provides that the level debt payment structure authorized in the bill applies only to a regional school unit that issues bonds for a non-state-funded school construction project that is 100 percent locally funded. The amendment also authorizes a level debt payment structure only if the payment structure results in lower costs for the regional school unit throughout the life of the issue of the bonds.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 181 authorizes a regional school unit that issues bonds for a non-state-funded school construction project that is 100 percent locally funded to issue bonds that may be repaid using a level debt payment structure. The law authorizes a level debt payment structure only if the payment structure results in lower costs for the regional school unit throughout the life of the issue of the bonds.

**LD 1229 Resolve, To Create a Pilot Program To Conduct Screenings for Scotopic
Sensitivity Syndrome**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY SANDERSON	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Education to design and implement a scotopic sensitivity syndrome screening pilot program in 10 elementary schools to screen children in grades three to six for scotopic sensitivity syndrome in the 2016-2017 school year and report its findings and results to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 128th Legislature.

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LD 1230 An Act To Create a Digital Content Library for Education

**PUBLIC 372
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY HUBBELL	OTP-AM	S-146

This bill creates a digital portal for education, which makes digital texts and online courses available to all students through a common statewide platform administered by the Commissioner of Education. This bill allows providers of digital texts and online courses to install them onto the portal at their own expense and set the fee charged for enrollment in or subscription to the digital text or online course. The commissioner is required to maintain a catalog of available digital texts and online courses.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-146)

This amendment replaces the bill, which establishes a digital portal for education, and instead creates a digital content library, which makes digital educational content and learning resources available to all students through a method determined by the Commissioner of Education and based upon the recommendations of a digital content library advisory group.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 372 creates a digital content library, which makes digital educational content and learning resources that further the State's educational initiatives available to all students through a method determined by the Commissioner of Education and based upon the recommendations of a digital content library advisory group.

Public Law 2015, chapter 372 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 16, 2015.

LD 1235 Resolve, To Strengthen Standards-based Diplomas

RESOLVE 41

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND HUBBELL	OTP-AM	S-206

This bill changes the date by which the Department of Education's working group is required to develop and submit for review standards, assessments and assessment criteria for determining student proficiency as part of the development of a standards-based system of education. The bill also requires the working group to begin meeting as soon as practicable and that all meetings be open to the public.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-206)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and creates the Maine Proficiency Education Council to study and make recommendations for a five-year plan for the full implementation of proficiency-based graduation requirements across the State in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A. The Commissioner of Education shall submit a report including the recommendations of the council to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 1, 2016.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 41 creates the Maine Proficiency Education Council to study and make recommendations for a five-year plan for the full implementation of proficiency-based graduation requirements across the State in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A. The Commissioner of Education must

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submit a report including the recommendations of the council to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 1, 2016.

LD 1249 An Act To Bring Equity to the State Portion of the Education Funding Formula as It Applies to Regional School Unit No. 35 ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAVERS GERZOFSKY	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The purpose of this bill is to bring equity to the school funding formula as it applies to Regional School Unit No. 35, comprising the towns of Eliot and South Berwick. The bill would change the current formula for distribution of the costs for education within Regional School Unit No. 35 in a manner that would take into consideration unequal changes in property valuation, median income and population. The bill would phase in the changes to each municipality's share of costs over a period of five years in order to reduce the fiscal impact on the municipalities.

LD 1250 An Act To Reform Public Charter Schools Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill amends the laws governing public charter schools by:

1. Requiring the Department of Education to post the annual audit of a public charter school and information concerning every contract entered into by a public charter school on a publicly accessible portion of the department's website;
2. Requiring a public charter school to provide the Department of Education with information on every contract executed by the public charter school, including leases, employment contracts or agreements with outside providers of materials or supplies or maintenance, administrative, food or educational services;
3. Requiring that notice for governing board meetings of public charter schools be posted on a publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website at least 30 days before the meeting, that governing board meetings be open to the public and the governing board take accurate minutes of the meeting and post those minutes on a publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website within 48 hours after adjournment of the meeting; and
4. Prohibiting a public charter school from accepting a gift or grant that is conditional upon the removal of a staff member or teacher of the public charter school.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-152)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment strikes the following provisions in the bill:

1. The provisions that require that notice for a meeting of a governing board of a public charter school be posted on a publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website at least 30 days before the meeting, that a governing board meeting be open to the public and that the governing board take accurate minutes of the meeting

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and post those minutes on a publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website within 48 hours after adjournment of the meeting; and

2. The provision that prohibits a public charter school from accepting a gift or grant that is conditional upon the removal of a staff member or teacher of the public charter school.

LD 1251 An Act To Safeguard Students' Personal and Private Information ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAWICKI MIRAMANT	ONTP	

This bill establishes data privacy practices for the Department of Education and school administrative units. It prohibits the department and school administrative units from disclosing personally identifiable information about students without the written consent of the parents of children under 18 years of age and the written consent of the students themselves when the students are at least 18 years of age. There are specific exceptions to the prohibitions. The bill also prohibits the collection, entry and maintenance of certain information about students and their families. A contractor, consultant or other party that has entered into a contract or other agreement with the department or a school administrative unit who violates the restrictions is subject to a \$5,000 civil penalty per violation and disqualification from future access to education records.

LD 1252 An Act To Protect Student Data ONTP

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

This bill establishes restrictions and protocols on the access and use of personally identifying student data by public and private elementary and secondary schools in software applications used to input, store and manage student data and on school-authorized electronic devices provided to students for overnight or at-home use. This bill also establishes restrictions and protocols for public and private elementary and secondary schools regarding allowable limitations on students' possession and use of and the schools' authority to access data on students' personal electronic devices.

LD 1253 An Act To Improve the Evaluation of Elementary and Secondary Schools CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BATES	OTP-AM	H-467

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill would require that, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year and only after the adoption of major substantive rules by the Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education implement a school assessment system to measure school performance and student proficiency. The system implemented must include multiple measures of student achievement and may include, but is not limited to, the use of:

1. Summative assessments aligned with the grade level expectations of the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 2 and Department of Education Rule Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction;

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2. Formative assessments that measure student growth over time; and
3. Information of the state assessment program under Title 20-A, section 6204 on student achievement reported by the department in compliance with applicable federal statutes and regulations regarding student assessment as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 United States Code, Chapter 70.

The bill would require the commissioner to annually report the statewide and school level results of the school assessment system with regard to the performance of schools and the proficiency of students in each of the State's elementary and secondary schools and to provide each participating school with a profile of school performance and student proficiency based upon data from the school assessment system. The reporting mechanisms and the categories reported must be uniform for each school compared at the elementary level or the secondary level.

The bill would also require the Commissioner of Education to convene a task force to develop a system to evaluate or rate the performance of public schools in the State and to incorporate the recommendations of the task force in the adoption of major substantive rules under this bill. The task force must include, but is not limited to, representatives of the following entities and stakeholder groups:

1. The Department of Education;
2. The State Board of Education;
3. Teachers;
4. Principals;
5. Parents;
6. The Education Research Institute under Title 20-A, section 10; and
7. Students.

The school assessment system developed by the task force must include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

1. Accurate measures of student progress over at least three years;
2. Rates of postsecondary school attendance and enlistment in the United States Armed Forces over at least three years;
3. A peer group comparison that takes into account, but is not limited to, use of special education services, the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, local and county unemployment data and median household income;
4. School attendance rates;
5. Graduation rates;
6. Procedures to address specific challenges unique to a municipality, county or school administrative unit; and
7. Interviews with parents of students, members of governing boards of school administrative units, teachers and other education leaders about the overall school environment.

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The bill would require the task force to review the requirements of Title 20-A, chapter 222 and the school assessment systems that have been implemented in other states and jurisdictions and develop a school assessment system that will best serve the academic and developmental needs of students in this State. The school assessment system may not use a bell curve, and a school may not be penalized because of the failure of students to take certain standardized tests. The task force would be required to provide opportunities for the public and interested parties to provide input regarding the development of the school assessment system and give notice to the public and interested parties of the task force's meetings during which the public may provide testimony or feedback on the proposed models under consideration by the task force.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-467)

This amendment replaces the concept draft with a bill that does the following:

1. It provides that, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year and only after the adoption of major substantive rules by the Department of Education, for public schools, public charter schools and private schools approved for tuition purposes that enroll at least 60 percent publicly funded students, the Commissioner of Education shall implement a school assessment system to measure school performance and student proficiency in achieving the knowledge and skills described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 2 and the Department of Education's rule Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction;
2. It provides that, notwithstanding any other provisions of Title 20-A, chapter 222, the commissioner may not provide a report of the statewide or school-level results of the school assessment system until the final adoption of department rules adopted in accordance with Title 20-A, section 6214, subsection 3. It provides that the rules must be consistent with the recommendations reported by the task force established in this amendment. It also provides that this law may not be construed to prevent or inhibit the department from providing reports to comply with the federal statutes and regulations pertaining to student assessment as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;
3. It directs the commissioner to convene a task force to review school assessment systems that have been implemented in other states and to develop a system to evaluate and rate the performance of schools in this State;
4. It provides that the commissioner must report the task force's findings, recommendations and any necessary legislation with respect to the implementation of a school assessment system to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2016 and authorizes the joint standing committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature related to the recommendations included in this report; and
5. It provides that the department must file provisionally adopted major substantive rules by January 6, 2017 to implement the school assessment system and that the rules must specify the methods to be used as part of the annual assessment of the performance of elementary and secondary schools and the proficiency of elementary and secondary school students beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

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LD 1266 An Act To Expand and Improve State-approved School Construction Projects

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill amends the education statutes related to the method by which the Department of Education determines the state and local shares of the major capital costs for a state-approved school construction project. The bill requires that the amount of the state and local shares for the approved major capital costs of the school construction project approved for a school year beginning on or after July 1, 2016 must be based on the same percentages as the state and the school administrative unit's contributions to the total cost of education as determined by the school administrative unit's state share percentage as calculated in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15672, subsection 31. The bill also requires that a school administrative unit establish a reserve fund to finance capital improvement or capital equipment for a state-approved school construction project approved for a school year beginning on or after July 1, 2016.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-253)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment reduces the required annual deposit or investment for capital improvement or capital equipment from two percent, as proposed in the bill, to one percent for the reserve fund to be established by a school administrative unit that receives a state share percentage of 20 percent or more for a school construction project approved for state funding on or after July 1, 2016.

LD 1276 An Act To Improve Educational Assessments of Maine Students

P & S 10

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCLELLAN	OTP-AM	H-280 S-219 LANGLEY

This bill:

1. Directs the Department of Education to terminate the State's membership in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and adopt a method of education assessment that complies with federal law but does not collect or disseminate personal data and attributes of students, such as attitudes, values, motivations, stereotypes or feelings;
2. Requires that a state assessment of student achievement be developed with direct input from teachers, parents and school boards and specifically address the needs of students and citizens of the State;
3. Requires that personally identifying data of a student derived from a state assessment of student achievement be disseminated only with the express written permission of each of the student's parents or guardians;
4. Requires that the State's participation in or entrance into an agreement with an organization, consortium or association in establishing or implementing standards and a state assessment of student performance be done through major substantive rules; and
5. Prohibits a state assessment of student achievement from being aligned with the so-called common core state standards initiated and adopted by several states.

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Committee Amendment "A" (H-280)

This amendment retains the provisions in the bill that:

1. Direct the Department of Education to terminate the State's membership in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and adopt a method of educational assessment that complies with federal law but does not collect or disseminate personal data and attributes of students, such as attitudes, values, motivations, stereotypes and feelings; and
2. Require that personally identifying data of a student derived from a state assessment of student achievement be disseminated only with the express written permission of each of the student's parents or guardians or of the student, if of majority age.

The amendment makes the following changes to the bill:

1. It removes the emergency preamble and the emergency clause;
2. It removes the requirement that the State's participation in or entrance into an agreement with an organization, consortium or association in establishing or implementing standards and a state assessment of student performance be done through major substantive rules;
3. It requires that the state assessment of student achievement be selected with direct input from education stakeholders and must specifically address the needs of students and citizens of the State; and
4. It removes the prohibition of a state assessment of student achievement from being aligned with the so-called common core state standards.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-219)

This amendment removes the provision that requires that personally identifying data of a student derived from a state assessment of student achievement be disseminated only with the express written permission of each of the student's parents or guardians or the student, if the student is of majority age.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 10 directs the Department of Education to terminate the State's membership in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and adopt a method of education assessment that complies with federal law but does not collect or disseminate personal data and attributes of students, such as attitudes, values, motivations, stereotypes or feelings. The law also requires that a state assessment of student achievement be developed for the 2015-2016 school year and each school year thereafter.

LD 1277 An Act To Establish a Magnet School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering

PUBLIC 363

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GILLWAY LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-314

This bill establishes the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering as a public magnet school for the purpose of providing certain high-achieving high school students with a challenging educational experience. The school will be located in the Town of Searsport and will serve students from throughout the State. Students from other states and countries may attend on a space-available basis. The bill also corrects a cross-reference.

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Committee Amendment "A" (H-314)

This amendment provides that:

1. The Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering may implement the plan established for operating the magnet school pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 8236, subsection 2 during the 2017-2018 school year;
2. All powers, duties and authority of the school cease 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature; and
3. The school's board of trustees is required to provide a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2018 on the commencement and operations of the school. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill relating to the school to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature, which may include but is not limited to a repeal of the provision of law that terminates the powers, duties and authority of the school 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 363 establishes the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering as a public magnet school for the purpose of providing certain high-achieving high school students with a challenging educational experience. The law provides that:

1. The Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering may implement the plan established for operating the magnet school pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 8236, subsection 2 during the 2017-2018 school year;
2. All powers, duties and authority of the school cease 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature; and
3. The school's board of trustees is required to provide a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2018 on the commencement and operations of the school. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill relating to the school to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature, which may include but is not limited to a repeal of the provision of law that terminates the powers, duties and authority of the school 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

LD 1281	An Act To Reduce the Burden on Local Communities of Transportation Costs for Special Needs Students	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HAMPER GINZLER	ONTP	

This bill proposes to limit the costs for special education transportation services for each school administrative unit that incurs special education costs that exceed \$20,000 for transportation services required to assist a child with a disability. The bill provides that the Commissioner of Education must pay 100 percent of the costs authorized for special education transportation services that exceed \$20,000 annually for each eligible child with a disability within the jurisdiction of the school administrative unit.

The bill also amends the statutes related to the annual review of the essential programs and services components

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required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15686-A by requiring the Commissioner of Education to submit an annual report on the components scheduled for review every three years, including a work plan that specifies the components to be reviewed during the next fiscal year, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. If the work plan is inconsistent with the components scheduled for review, the commissioner shall provide the reason for each requested change in the report submitted to the joint standing committee, and the joint standing committee is authorized to approve in writing the proposed changes to the component review schedule specified in the work plan.

LD 1282 An Act To Support Conservation and the Health and Wellness of Maine Youth through Physically Active Residential Environmental Education Programs ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON TIMBERLAKE	ONTP	

This bill establishes the Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students Program to support residential environmental education program experiences for public school students in grades five to eight in the State. It also establishes the Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships to students in the State to attend a residential environmental education program. Scholarships must be in an amount equal to 50 percent of the cost of attendance at a residential environmental education program and must be distributed to students in a manner that ensures students receiving scholarships attend residential environmental education programs across the State.

LD 1285 An Act To Support School Nutrition Died Between Houses

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

This bill requires the Department of Education to develop and support local food training programs for public school food service personnel and facilitate the use of local food hubs to expand the use of local foods in schools. It increases the limit on the amount that the State matches for the acquisition of local food by a school administrative unit if the unit sends a food service employee for training in the acquisition and use of local foods. It directs the department to develop and post a position description for school food service program personnel on its publicly accessible website and to develop an annual competitive skill-oriented school food service recognition emphasizing creative and effective use of local foods. It directs the Department of Education to apply for federal grant funding for the implementation of the local foods training program and the increased state contribution for the Local Produce Fund and it makes implementation contingent on receipt of funding. It also allows the department to accept grant funding from hospitals and other sources.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-196)

This amendment which is the majority report of the committee adds a definition of the term "local food hub," which is any business or organization that locates and obtains local food and can handle the logistics of supplying and delivering local foods to schools. This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

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LD 1360 An Act To Increase the Number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Professionals in Maine

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK POULIOT	OTP-AM	S-243

The purpose of this bill is to increase the number of students pursuing graduate and undergraduate degrees in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This bill creates the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. Under the bill, loans with varying interest rates will be provided to participating students depending on their future employment: loans with zero percent interest rates will be available to students who remain in or return to the State and work in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics upon graduation; loans bearing an interest rate of five percent will be available to students who remain in or return to the State upon graduation but are not employed in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and loans bearing an interest rate of eight percent annually will be available for students who live and work outside the State upon graduation. This bill appropriates \$10,000,000 to fund the program for fiscal year 2015-16.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-243)

This amendment strikes a reference to a loan repayment program from the title of the chapter of law proposed to be enacted in the bill. The amendment adds high school seniors to the definition of "STEM student." The amendment also changes the maximum loan term from four years to five years and strikes a reference to eight percent loans being available to students who, upon graduation, are not employed in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Finally, the amendment adds a contingency funding provision that prohibits the Finance Authority of Maine from providing loans through the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program in fiscal year 2015-16 unless legislation is enacted during the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature that provides additional funding for the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program for fiscal year 2015-16 and for the Maine Community College System for fiscal year 2015-16 and fiscal year 2016-17.

LD 1370 An Act To Improve the Quality of Teachers

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT HUBBELL		

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, teacher salaries and 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 specifies an academic achievement level necessary for applicants to qualify for a provisional teaching certificate.
2. It strengthens the support systems required to provide assistance for provisional teachers during each year of their probationary period.
3. It directs the Commissioner of Education to pay salary supplements to classroom teachers who are involved in

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the operation of a school administrative unit's support system approved in accordance with the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13015.

4. It provides that an individual who has not completed a master's degree program and who is issued a teacher certificate in accordance with Title 20-A, chapter 502 on or after July 1, 2015 may not receive a renewed certificate or a new teaching certificate unless the individual completes a master's degree program within five years of being employed as a teacher in the State.

5. It increases the minimum salaries for certified teachers to \$40,000 beginning in the 2016-2017 school year and includes state funding for the incremental costs of meeting this minimum as part of the school funding formula.

6. It requires the Department of Education to increase the qualifying scores for the standardized qualifying examinations for applicants for initial teacher certification in its Rule Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators no later than July 1, 2016.

7. 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.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 1386 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing High School Graduation Requirements

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill amends the current education statutes related to requirements for awarding a high school diploma to establish a blended system of graduation requirements that provides that a diploma indicating graduation from a secondary school must be awarded to students who accumulate at least 20 academic credits documenting the successful completion of courses and demonstrate proficiency in meeting state standards in at least two content areas of the system of learning results established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209. The bill also provides that a school administrative unit may award an endorsement of content area proficiency to a student who has demonstrated proficiency in a content area of the system of learning results. This bill accomplishes the following.

1. It amends the basic school approval standards that guide curriculum and instruction and promote student advancement and graduation to include language for transitioning to the blended system. Specifically, it provides that a school administrative unit's comprehensive education plan must include a plan for transitioning to the blended system.

2. It provides that, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, diplomas must be awarded to students who meet the new curriculum and instructional requirements established for secondary schools and school boards must adopt policies to phase in these new requirements.

3. It strikes the provision that would repeal, on July 1, 2020, the standards for awarding high school diplomas to secondary school students who successfully complete courses required for graduation in accordance with Title 20-A, section 4722, thus providing that these standards will continue to apply as part of the blended system.

4. It removes the requirement that a diploma indicating graduation from a secondary school on or after January 1, 2017 must be based on student demonstration of proficiency in all content areas established under the system of

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learning results and instead provides that a diploma indicating graduation must be based on student demonstration of proficiency in at least two content areas established under the system of learning results.

5. It provides that an endorsement of content area proficiency must be included in a student's academic transcript as an official credential of academic achievement of content area proficiency.

6. It directs the Department of Education to adopt or amend rules pursuant to Title 20-A, section 253, subsection 9 by December 31, 2015 in order to implement the new blended system beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-352)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 1394 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2013, chapter 114, section 10. The bill incorporates changes to the education statutes and rules proposed by the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula that the commission's report indicated are necessary to implement its recommendations.

The joint standing committee has not taken a position on the substance of the report or this bill, and by submitting this bill the joint standing committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of the recommendations and the necessary changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, included in the report or this bill. The committee is submitting the bill for the sole purpose of turning the proposals in the report into a printed bill that can be referred to the joint standing committee for an appropriate public hearing and subsequent processing in the normal course of business. The joint standing committee is taking this action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative review of the proposals included in the report submitted by the commission.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 1396 An Act Regarding Educational Standards for Maine Students

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERRISH EDGEComb P	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill provides Maine students and teachers with high-quality content standards that have been demonstrated as some of the best state standards in the nation. The bill accomplishes the following with regard to the statewide content standards, statewide assessment programs, the comparison of recent and proposed content standards and statewide assessment programs and the release of personally identifiable data.

With regard to content standards, the bill:

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1. Prohibits the Department of Education from adopting and implementing the common core state standards, or any standards developed by any similar initiative process or program, as the State's content standards for English language arts and mathematics and voids any prior actions taken to adopt or implement the common core state standards;
2. Requires the Department of Education, within 90 days after the bill's effective date, to replace the content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies with new standards that are consistent with the standards adopted by Massachusetts prior to that state's adoption of the common core state standards, so that Maine's standards are, as much as possible, identical to those adopted by Massachusetts, except when a Maine context requires otherwise;
3. Specifies that the content standards that are based on the Massachusetts standards are effective for the 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years only;
4. Requires the Department of Education, by June 30, 2017, to adopt new content standards for kindergarten and for each of grades one to 12 in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies that are distinct and independent from the standards previously adopted by the Department of Education so that they are in place beginning with the 2019-2020 school year;
5. States that a school administrative unit is not required to use all or any part of the content standards adopted by the Department of Education;
6. Prohibits the Commissioner of Education from adopting any model curricula that are aligned with the content standards; and
7. Prohibits the Department of Education, the State Board of Education and any other state official, board or agency from adopting or revising any content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies until the new or revised standards are approved in accordance with the bill.

With regard to assessments, the bill:

1. Prohibits the Department of Education from using the assessments developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium or the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers during the 2015-2016 school year or any school year thereafter; and also prohibits the department beginning with the 2015-2016 school year from using the assessments related to or based on the common core state standards by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers or any other consortium of states working together to develop a set of assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers;
2. For the 2015-2016 school year, requires the Department of Education to furnish and school administrative units and schools to administer the assessments for elementary and secondary schools that were administered during the 2013-2014 school year, including the New England Common Assessment Program for grades three to eight and the Maine High School Assessment testing program for grade 11 that includes the SATs in reading, mathematics and writing, as well as the Maine High School Assessment science test that was developed in collaboration with Measured Progress;
3. Requires the Department of Education to adopt or develop, not later than 90 days after the effective date of the bill, assessments for elementary and secondary schools in English language arts and mathematics that are aligned with the State's version of Massachusetts content standards for use only during the 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years;
4. Requires the Department of Education to adopt or develop by June 30, 2019 assessments for elementary and

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secondary schools in English language arts and mathematics that are aligned with the new standards for use during the 2019-2020 school year and each school year thereafter;

- 5. Specifies that the nationally standardized assessment that is required as part of the statewide educational assessment program must be a nationally recognized, norm-referenced assessment, instead of a nationally standardized assessment as under current law and adds the requirement that it measure college and career readiness; and
- 6. Requires that a school administrative unit excuse a student from standardized assessments at the written request of the student's parent or guardian and establishes requirements for school administrative units and the Department of Education related to excusing a student.

With regard to the comparison of standards and assessments, the bill:

- 1. Requires the Department of Education to compare and publish on its website a comparison of the new content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies that will be effective in the 2019-2020 school year with Maine's state standards and the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements and to submit a report to the Legislature and Governor outlining the results of the comparison of the standards; and
- 2. Requires the subcommittees in the content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies to compare the content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies with the content standards that were previously adopted by the Department of Education pursuant to Public Law 2009, chapter 313, section 19 and Public Law 2009, chapter 647, section 1.

With regard to the release of personally identifiable data, the bill:

- 1. Specifies that, if the Federal Government requires a grant recipient to provide personally identifiable information of students or teachers as a condition of a federal education grant relating to content standards, only aggregate data may be provided for that purpose; and
- 2. Prohibits a federal grant recipient from releasing personally identifiable information without informed written consent of the student's parent or guardian for a student's information or of the teacher for a teacher's information.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-315)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, makes a technical change to the bill to reflect changes in law enacted by Public Law 2015, chapter 40.

LD 1406	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion	Died On Adjournment
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-163
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This emergency bill includes certain recommendations proposed by the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion for consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

The joint standing committee has not taken a position on the substance of the report or this bill and by submitting this bill the committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of the recommendations and the necessary changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 419-A included in the report or this bill. The joint standing committee is submitting the bill for the sole purpose of turning the

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proposals in the report into a printed bill that can be referred to the committee for an appropriate public hearing and subsequent processing in the normal course of business. The joint standing committee is taking this action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative review of the proposals included in the report submitted by the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-163)

This amendment makes the following changes to the recommendations proposed by the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion for consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

1. It strikes the proposal to increase the minimum Maine State Grant Program awards from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
2. It changes the date for the initial report required from the Finance Authority of Maine for the annual Maine State Grant Program awards made to eligible students, including the possible tiered grants awarded, from January 15, 2016 to September 1, 2016 and also amends the annual report date to September 1st.
3. It changes the date for the college attainment and degree completion goal reports required from the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy from July 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016.
4. It changes the date for the reports on strategic planning and funding required to implement college completion strategies required from the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy from July 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016.
5. It strikes the proposal to require the Finance Authority of Maine to amend the Maine State Grant Program rules related to awarding tiered grants to eligible students.
6. It strikes the appropriations to the Finance Authority of Maine for tiered grant awards and to the Maine Community College System for adding College Navigator positions and expanding student work study opportunities and replaces them with an allocation to fund the one-time costs of the legislative per diem and expenses of the Task Force To Study College Attainment and Degree Completion Goals.

**LD 1420 An Act Regarding Participation by Private School Students in
Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities at Public Schools**

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT KRUGER	ONTP OTP	

Current law allows a student at a private school that is recognized by the Department of Education as providing an equivalent instruction alternative to try out for extracurricular or interscholastic activities at a public school if the private school the student attends does not offer the same extracurricular or interscholastic activities, the principal of the public school approves and the student agrees to abide by other conditions.

This bill extends the same privilege to a student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program at a private school that is approved for attendance purposes by the Department of Education. Private schools that are approved by the department must meet standards for hygiene, health and safety and either be accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges or meet applicable requirements of Maine law pertaining to private schools and the department's requirements for approval for attendance purposes.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

**LD 1441 An Act To Establish the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating
Committee**

PUBLIC 261

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

OTP

This bill is reported out pursuant to joint order by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The bill replaces the Education Coordinating Committee with the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee to:

1. Promote efficiency, cooperative effort and strategic planning between the governance structures of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System and address issues including, but not limited to, improving college affordability, promoting student transfer between the systems, reducing the duplication of programs, identifying opportunities for building cross-system economies of scale and sharing of resources and recommending statutory changes to improve the efficiency or effectiveness of the public institutions of higher education;
2. Investigate and pursue opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing with the Maine Maritime Academy; and
3. With the Commissioner of Education and the Chair of the State Board of Education, investigate and pursue opportunities to improve college preparation, transition and completion for Maine's secondary students.

The first meeting of the committee must be convened by October 15, 2015 and the committee is directed to meet at least twice each year. The committee is required to submit a report on its deliberations, including any recommendations, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by February 15th each year.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 261 replaces the Education Coordinating Committee with the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee to:

1. Promote efficiency, cooperative effort and strategic planning between the governance structures of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System and address issues including, but not limited to, improving college affordability, promoting student transfer between the systems, reducing the duplication of programs, identifying opportunities for building cross-system economies of scale and sharing of resources and recommending statutory changes to improve the efficiency or effectiveness of the public institutions of higher education;
2. Investigate and pursue opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing with the Maine Maritime Academy; and
3. With the Commissioner of Education and the Chair of the State Board of Education, investigate and pursue opportunities to improve college preparation, transition and completion for Maine's secondary students.

The first meeting of the committee must be convened by October 15, 2015 and the committee is directed to meet at least twice each year. The committee is required to submit a report on its deliberations, including any recommendations, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by February 15th each year.

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LD 1443 An Act To Merge the Maine Educational Loan Authority with the Finance Authority of Maine

PUBLIC 170

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY	OTP-AM	S-223

This bill merges the Maine Educational Loan Authority with the Finance Authority of Maine.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-223)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 170 merges the Maine Educational Loan Authority with the Finance Authority of Maine.

LD 1448 An Act To Amend Education Laws

INDEF PP

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

This bill gives the Commissioner of Education the authority to designate a school administrative unit to enroll a student when the student's school administrative unit neither maintains a school nor contracts with another school administrative unit and no school administrative unit enrolls the student voluntarily. For a student receiving special education services, the bill requires a resident school administrative unit to pay to the receiving school administrative unit tuition, special education tuition, other costs directly related to the student's special education and costs associated with due process proceedings for providing a free, appropriate public education.

This bill makes the following changes to the laws relating to public charter schools.

1. The bill allows charter schools authorized by a local school board or a collaborative among local school boards to give enrollment preference to residents of the school administrative unit or units whose school board or school boards authorized the charter school.
2. The bill extends the submission deadline for a charter school authorizer's annual report to the Commissioner of Education from 60 to 90 days after the end of the school fiscal year and adds language to address the disposition of graduation records and records of other students not transitioning to another Maine public school if a charter school closes.
3. The bill adds language to reflect that charter schools are subject to educator effectiveness requirements.
4. The bill provides that the compulsory attendance laws apply to virtual charter schools.
5. The bill allows the Commissioner of Education to designate the school administrative unit that is responsible for oversight of the individualized education program of a child with a disability who is a state ward and is placed in an out-of-state residential treatment center by the Department of Health and Human Services.
6. For a charter school in a school administrative unit with an enrollment of 500 or fewer students, current law caps the number of students from the school administrative unit that the charter school may enroll during its first three

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years of operation at five percent of the school administrative unit's noncharter public school students per grade level. The bill provides that if five percent of the school administrative unit's noncharter public school students per grade level is less than one, the charter school may enroll one student from the school administrative unit per grade level in each of the charter school's first three years of operation.

This bill was not referred to a committee.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

SUBJECT INDEX

Administration, Department of Education, State Board, and School Governance

Enacted

LD 59	An Act To Protect Students' Rights and Privacy Regarding Their School Records	PUBLIC 97
LD 129	An Act To Provide Options to Schools for Making Up School Days	PUBLIC 60 EMERGENCY
LD 462	An Act To Clarify Rulemaking for Transportation of Public School Students	PUBLIC 73
LD 840	An Act To Collect and Report Data on the Implementation of Proficiency-based Diplomas and Standards-based Student Learning	PUBLIC 367
LD 1173	An Act To Improve School Administrative Efficiency and Expand Capacity for Professional Growth for Educators with Regional Collaborative Programs and Services	PUBLIC 251

Not Enacted

LD 130	An Act To Exempt Certain Established Public Prekindergarten Programs from New Regulations	ONTP
LD 305	An Act To Authorize Circus Conservatory of America To Grant Baccalaureate Degrees	CARRIED OVER
LD 314	An Act To Amend the Administration of the Transportation System in the Department of Education	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 356	An Act To Permit the New England School of Dental Technology To Grant the Degree of Bachelor of Science	CARRIED OVER
LD 392	An Act To Eliminate the Maine School Performance Grading System	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 419	An Act To Establish the Summer Success Program Fund	CARRIED OVER
LD 536	An Act To Amend Provisions Regarding the Appointment of Members of the Maine Charter School Commission	Died Between Houses
LD 793	Resolve, To Examine Unfunded Mandates in the Education Laws and To Recommend Unfunded Mandates To Be Eliminated	ONTP
LD 981	An Act To Establish a Veterinary School	CARRIED OVER
LD 1033	Resolve, To Assist the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System To Reduce the Need for Remedial Education	CARRIED OVER

LD 1064	Resolve, To Establish the Maine Summer Success Program	ONTP
LD 1253	An Act To Improve the Evaluation of Elementary and Secondary Schools	CARRIED OVER

Adult Education

Not Enacted

LD 109	An Act To Ensure Maine Companies Have Access to Skilled Labor	Died On Adjournment
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Alternative Education, Charter Schools and School Choice

Enacted

LD 131	An Act To Amend the Laws Related to Public Funding of Charter Schools	PUBLIC 54 EMERGENCY
LD 1277	An Act To Establish a Magnet School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering	PUBLIC 363

Not Enacted

LD 218	An Act To Support Fair Financing in Charter Schools and School Administrative Units	ONTP
LD 265	An Act To Require the State To Fund Public Charter Schools	ONTP
LD 306	Resolve, To Prevent Overpayment for Virtual Education	ONTP
LD 696	An Act To Establish a Moratorium on the Establishment of Virtual Charter Schools	Died Between Houses
LD 1047	An Act To Allow for Collaboration in Public Charter Schools	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 1250	An Act To Reform Public Charter Schools	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 1282	An Act To Support Conservation and the Health and Wellness of Maine Youth through Physically Active Residential Environmental Education Programs	ONTP
LD 1448	An Act To Amend Education Laws	INDEF PP

Career and Technical Education

Not Enacted

LD 637	An Act Concerning the Calendars of Career and Technical Education Programs and Partnering Schools	Majority (ONTP) Report
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Cultural Affairs

Enacted

LD 235	An Act To Adjust Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of the Department of Education, the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine State Museum and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015	PUBLIC 7 EMERGENCY
LD 261	Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine State Museum Commission To Study the Replacement of Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection	RESOLVE 51

Not Enacted

LD 300	An Act To Appropriate Funds To Help Restore the Historic Wood Island Life Saving Station in Kittery	Died On Adjournment
LD 877	Resolve, To Study the Fort Norumbega Site in Bucksport	ONTP

Curriculum, Instruction, Textbooks and Testing

Enacted

LD 3	An Act To Ensure Consistent Certification of Graduation Standards in Publicly Funded Secondary Schools	PUBLIC 40 EMERGENCY
LD 231	An Act To Ensure That Schoolchildren with Dyslexia Receive the Assistance Needed	PUBLIC 338
LD 417	An Act Regarding Measures To Ensure Support for Students' Financial Literacy	PUBLIC 64
LD 537	An Act To Avoid the Inappropriate Use of Assessment Tools on Children before Grade 3	PUBLIC 183
LD 556	An Act To Require Public Schools To Offer Instruction Related to Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the Use of an Automated External Defibrillator	PUBLIC 140
LD 853	An Act To Allow Secondary Schools To Grant Certificates of Academic Proficiency	PUBLIC 342
LD 1180	An Act To Require Education in Public Preschool Programs and Elementary Schools Regarding Child Sexual Abuse	PUBLIC 292
LD 1235	Resolve, To Strengthen Standards-based Diplomas	RESOLVE 41
LD 1276	An Act To Improve Educational Assessments of Maine Students	P & S 10

Not Enacted

LD 128	An Act To Allow a School Administrative Unit To Implement a Firearm Safety Education Program for Elementary School Students	ONTP
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LD 152	An Act To Encourage Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation To Be Taught in High School	ONTP
LD 338	An Act To Reduce Remedial Course Requirements at Maine Community Colleges	ONTP
LD 464	An Act To Improve Science and Engineering Education for Maine's Students	Veto Sustained
LD 567	Resolve, To Implement Recommendations from the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education and Workforce Plan	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 579	An Act To Allow Teachers To Teach and Students To Learn by Amending the Laws Governing Education Standards	ONTP
LD 695	An Act To Clarify Statewide Assessment Program Options	Veto Sustained
LD 725	An Act To Increase Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Maine Public Schools	ONTP
LD 749	An Act To Ensure Integrity in Students' Proficiency	ONTP
LD 1153	An Act To Restore Local Control of Education to Towns	ONTP
LD 1386	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing High School Graduation Requirements	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 1396	An Act Regarding Educational Standards for Maine Students	Majority (ONTP) Report

Education - Other

Enacted

LD 454	An Act To Enact the Student Information Privacy Act	PUBLIC 256
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Not Enacted

LD 711	An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools	Minority (ONTP) Report
LD 956	An Act To Create Community Schools	Died On Adjournment
LD 1118	Resolve, To Establish the Study Commission on the Social Emotional Learning and Development of Maine's Young Children	ONTP
LD 1420	An Act Regarding Participation by Private School Students in Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities at Public Schools	Majority (ONTP) Report

Health, Nutrition and Safety

Enacted

LD 557	An Act To Provide Reasonable Accommodations for School Attendance for Children Certified for the Medical Use of Marijuana	PUBLIC 369
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Not Enacted

LD 380	Resolve, To Establish a Working Group To Aid with the End of Student Hunger	ONTP
LD 463	An Act Regarding Eligibility of Children Placed in Guardianship for the School Lunch and Milk Program	ONTP
LD 852	An Act To Establish Maine's School Beverage Standards	ONTP
LD 933	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine	Died On Adjournment
LD 985	An Act To Align Maine's School Marketing Law with Current Federal Food Standards	Veto Sustained
LD 1229	Resolve, To Create a Pilot Program To Conduct Screenings for Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome	ONTP
LD 1285	An Act To Support School Nutrition	Died Between Houses

Online Learning Programs and Courses

Enacted

LD 1230	An Act To Create a Digital Content Library for Education	PUBLIC 372 EMERGENCY
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Not Enacted

LD 391	Resolve, To Create a State-run Virtual Academy Providing Maine Students with Access to Online Learning through Their Existing School Districts	ONTP
LD 1251	An Act To Safeguard Students' Personal and Private Information	ONTP
LD 1252	An Act To Protect Student Data	ONTP

Postsecondary Education Finance and Student Aid

Enacted

LD 428	An Act To Amend the Powers and Duties of the State Board of Education	PUBLIC 72
LD 878	An Act To Support College Affordability in Maine	PUBLIC 103
LD 1443	An Act To Merge the Maine Educational Loan Authority with the Finance Authority of Maine	PUBLIC 170

Not Enacted

LD 17	An Act To Restore Programs and Faculty to the University of Maine System	ONTP
LD 42	An Act To Increase Funding for Instruction within the University of Maine System	ONTP
LD 99	An Act To Stabilize the Faculty and Programs at the University of Southern Maine	ONTP

LD 127	An Act To Preserve Programs in Allied Health at Kennebec Valley Community College	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 318	An Act To Appropriate Funds to Kennebec Valley Community College for its Programs in Allied Health	ONTP
LD 627	An Act To Make College More Affordable for Maine Residents	Died Between Houses
LD 784	An Act To Authorize a Revenue Bond for a Student Loan Reduction Plan	CARRIED OVER
LD 794	An Act To Ensure That Funding to the University of Maine System Is Used Efficiently	ONTP
LD 939	An Act To Increase Transparency in the University of Maine System Regarding Procurement and Administrative Costs	ONTP
LD 968	An Act To Expand Access to Affordable Higher Education and To Strengthen Workforce Development	INDEF PP
LD 1141	An Act To Promote Degree Completion by Maine Community College Students	Died On Adjournment
LD 1220	An Act To Increase Funding for the Maine Community College System	Died On Adjournment
LD 1360	An Act To Increase the Number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Professionals in Maine	Died On Adjournment
LD 1406	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion	Died On Adjournment

Postsecondary Education Governance and Coordination

Enacted

LD 1441	An Act To Establish the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee	PUBLIC 261
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Not Enacted

LD 18	Resolve, To Review and Audit the University of Maine System's Finances and Governance Practices	ONTP
LD 151	An Act To Protect Public Health in the Maine Community College System	Leave to Withdraw
LD 215	An Act To Improve Student Retention in Maine's Postsecondary Institutions	CARRIED OVER
LD 393	An Act To Create a Unified Board of Higher Education	ONTP
LD 538	An Act To Reduce Fees at Maine's Postsecondary Institutions	ONTP
LD 1198	An Act To Improve Representation on the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System	ONTP

Safe Schools and Student Conduct

Enacted

LD 97	Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Amend the School Emergency Drill Rules	RESOLVE 2
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School Budgets

Enacted

LD 763	An Act To Change the Budget Approval Process for Alternative Organizational Structures	PUBLIC 286
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Not Enacted

LD 1082	An Act To Ensure Equitable Support of Education for Maine Students in School Administrative District No. 6 and School Administrative District No. 44	INDEF PP
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School Construction, Facilities and Buses

Enacted

LD 1048	An Act To Allow School Administrative District No. 27 To Transfer Ownership of the St. Francis Elementary School to the Town of St. Francis	P & S 4 EMERGENCY
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LD 1222	An Act To Remove Barriers to School Construction Financing in Regional School Units	PUBLIC 181
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Not Enacted

LD 578	An Act To Redefine the Method by Which the Department of Education Determines Cost Sharing for School Construction and Renovation Projects for Municipalities within a School Administrative Unit	Majority (ONTP) Report
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LD 683	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of the Final Repeal of Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule That Has Been Provisionally Repealed by the Department of Education, State Board of Education	ONTP
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LD 685	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education	ONTP
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LD 1266	An Act To Expand and Improve State-approved School Construction Projects	Majority (ONTP) Report
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School Finance

Enacted

LD 418	Resolve, To Study the Use of Social Impact Bonds as a Funding Mechanism for Public Education Programs in Maine	RESOLVE 52
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Not Enacted

LD 56	An Act To Limit Increases in the State's Share of Funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Public Education	ONTP
LD 60	An Act To Ensure Proper Funding for Teacher Retirement	Died On Adjournment
LD 65	An Act To Apply Equally a Curtailment or Other Loss in General Purpose Aid to Education	ONTP
LD 240	An Act To Amend the School Funding Formula	ONTP
LD 441	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Local Share of Education Costs	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 728	An Act To Limit the Amount of Money a Municipality May Spend on Education	ONTP
LD 876	An Act To Encourage Equity in School Funding by Limiting a Municipality's Contribution Based on Its Student Enrollment	ONTP
LD 1152	An Act To Amend the Definition of "Property Fiscal Capacity" in the School Funding Law To Address Inequities Affecting Municipalities Experiencing Significant Reductions in Value	ONTP
LD 1249	An Act To Bring Equity to the State Portion of the Education Funding Formula as It Applies to Regional School Unit No. 35	ONTP
LD 1394	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula	CARRIED OVER

Special Education Programs and Finance

Enacted

LD 201	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education	RESOLVE 25 EMERGENCY
LD 350	An Act To Expedite MaineCare Payments for School Administrative Units	PUBLIC 63

Not Enacted

LD 19	An Act Regarding Special Education for Students Enrolled in a Home Instruction Program	ONTP
LD 44	Resolve, To Direct the Department of Education To Train School Personnel To Implement Dyslexia Awareness and Student Accommodation Policies	ONTP
LD 601	An Act To Clarify the Authority of Individualized Education Plans in Relation to Proficiency-based Diplomas	ONTP
LD 1081	An Act To Change the Individualized Education Program Notice Requirements	Died Between Houses
LD 1281	An Act To Reduce the Burden on Local Communities of Transportation Costs for Special Needs Students	ONTP

Teachers and Administrators

Enacted

LD 38	An Act To Allow Sufficient Time for Implementation of the Performance Evaluation and Professional Growth System for Educators	PUBLIC 18 EMERGENCY
LD 461	An Act To Change the Notification Deadline for the Nonrenewal of a Teacher's Contract	PUBLIC 65
LD 692	An Act Regarding Educator Effectiveness	PUBLIC 3 EMERGENCY
LD 1042	Resolve, To Create the Task Force on School Leadership	RESOLVE 46 EMERGENCY

Not Enacted

LD 374	An Act To Require School Administrators To Complete 50 Hours of Direct Student Instruction To Be Recertified	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 764	Resolve, To Impose a One-year Delay on the Use of Standardized Tests To Evaluate Teachers	Veto Sustained
LD 1207	Resolve, To Implement an Online Professional Development Platform for Teachers and Educators	ONTP
LD 1370	An Act To Improve the Quality of Teachers	CARRIED OVER

Truants, Dropouts and Homeless Students

Not Enacted

LD 311	An Act To Improve Attendance at Public Elementary Schools	Veto Sustained
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