

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

July 2011

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND  
ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

*CARRIED OVER* ..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE* ..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT* ..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public Law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 28, 2011. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

*Joint Standing Committee on Taxation*

**LD 6      An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Exemption for Bags Provided by Redemption Centers for Returnable Containers**

**DIED ON  
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TRAHAN	OTP-AM	S-11

This bill exempts from sales tax plastic bags used by redemption centers to sort, store and transport returnable beverage containers.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-11)**

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause and makes the bill retroactive to January 1, 2004. It also clarifies that the plastic bags must be sold to licensed redemption centers and used to sort, store or transport beverage containers to qualify for the exemption.

This bill was placed on the Special Appropriations Table and died on adjournment. See LD 1043, Part FFFF.

**LD 7      An Act Concerning Taxation of Automobile Manufacturers' Rebates**

**ONTP**

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

This bill provides that sales tax is not applied to automobile manufacturers' rebates when those rebates are assigned by the purchaser to the retailer.

**LD 9      An Act To Reduce Income Tax to 4.5% and Remove Low-income Families from Taxation**

**ONTP**

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

This bill requires the transfer to the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents, beginning in fiscal year 2012-13, of any growth in General Fund revenues over the previous fiscal year adjusted by the growth limitation factor. Money in the fund must be used to reduce the overall individual income tax burden by reducing the tax rates until the top rate is reduced to 4.5% and increasing to \$30,000 the income threshold below which families do not pay income tax.