

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE,
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

July 2011

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CAROLYN RUSSO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
NATALIE HAYNES, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

* REPLACED LATE IN THE SESSION BY REP. ANDRE E. CUSHING III

STATE OF MAINE
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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 125th 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 125th 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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

LD 273 An Act Regarding Penalties for Opting Out of Paperless Billing

PUBLIC 226

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SULLIVAN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-118 S-132 SULLIVAN

This bill prohibits penalizing a customer for opting out of receiving a billing statement in electronic form rather than paper form, but allows an incentive to be offered to a customer to accept a billing statement electronically rather than in paper form.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-118)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The bill provides that certain fees for customers choosing to opt out of receiving a billing statement in electronic form rather than paper form are prohibited. The amendment makes the prohibition subject to federal law and regulation. It also adds an exemption for a depository institution, or a subsidiary that is owned and controlled by a depository institution, and that is regulated by a state or federal banking agency.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-132)

This amendment adds an exemption for an affiliate of a depository institution.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 226 provides that certain fees for customers choosing to opt out of receiving a billing statement in electronic form rather than paper form are prohibited, subject to federal law and regulation. The law provides an exemption for a depository institution, or a subsidiary that is owned and controlled by a depository institution, and that is regulated by a state or federal banking agency. It also includes an exemption for an affiliate of a depository institution.

LD 304 An Act To Promote the Hiring of Seasonal Workers

ONTP

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

This bill changes from five weeks to 10 weeks the amount of time an employer may employ an employee without being charged for unemployment benefits.