

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

August 2015

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

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

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is October 15, 2015. 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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

the public.

LD 598 An Act To Strengthen the Maine Agriculture Protection Act

PUBLIC 145

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIMBERLAKE MASON	OTP-AM	H-200

This bill ensures that agricultural composting operations are included in all sections of the Maine Agriculture Protection Act, also commonly known as the right-to-farm law, that protect farms and farm operations.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-200)

This amendment adds manure and compost to the definition of "agricultural products," which is defined for the Maine Agriculture Protection Act.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 145 ensures that agricultural composting operations are included in all sections of the Maine Agriculture Protection Act, also commonly known as the right-to-farm law, that protect farms and farm operations. In addition, it adds manure and compost to the definition of "agricultural products," which is defined for the Maine Agriculture Protection Act.

LD 653 An Act To Increase Consumption of Maine Foods in All State Institutions

ONTP

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

This bill establishes a schedule for the current law that requires state and school purchasers to buy meat, fish, dairy products, excluding milk and eggs, and species of fruits and fresh vegetables directly from Maine food producers or food brokers. The bill establishes a minimum percentage of Maine foodstuffs that must be purchased, requiring at least 15 percent by December 31, 2021, at least 20 percent by December 31, 2026, at least 25 percent by December 31, 2036 and at least 35 percent by December 31, 2037. The bill exempts from the requirements school purchasers at schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. The bill requires competitive bidding when more than one producer, broker or wholesaler can supply a given foodstuff. The bill also strikes the language in current law that excludes milk and eggs from this requirement.

LD 656 An Act To Enhance Forest Ranger Safety

ONTP

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

This bill:

1. Repeals two provisions of Public Law 1999, chapter 352 that require the Commissioner of Conservation to sell all bulletproof vests, firearms and related equipment and that prohibit the commissioner from purchasing bulletproof vests, firearms or related equipment without specific authorization by the Legislature;

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

2. Requires the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop and institute a policy that requires all forest rangers to attend and complete a law enforcement training course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a condition of employment. It provides that a forest ranger who has already attended a law enforcement training course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy is exempt;
3. Requires the state supervisor of the forest protection unit in the Bureau of Forestry and the Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to develop a plan to provide training to forest rangers in the use of firearms, bulletproof vests and other related equipment. The state supervisor is directed to develop a plan to furnish such firearms and equipment to those forest rangers for the performance of their law enforcement duties; and
4. Requires the state supervisor to submit the plan to furnish such firearms and equipment to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety for review no later than November 1, 2015 and to implement, including furnishing firearms and related equipment, no later than January 1, 2017.

LD 708 An Act To Limit the Use of Pesticides on School Grounds

ONTP

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

This bill restricts the use of pesticides on school grounds by allowing pesticide usage only in situations that pose a health threat to a student or staff member, in response to the presence of animals or insects identified as a public health nuisance or on agricultural fields in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to adopt rules to implement landscaping design that minimizes or avoids the necessity of the use of pesticides on school grounds for new construction of school facilities.

LD 709 An Act Regarding the Regulation of Rabbit Production for Local Consumption

ONTP

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

This bill permits rabbit producers to sell rabbit products without inspection at the farm on which the rabbits were raised, at farmers' markets, by delivery to consumers' homes, to community supported agriculture farms with which the rabbit producer has a direct marketing relationship, to locally owned grocery stores and to locally owned restaurants. The bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt rules to establish requirements for the physical facilities and sanitary processes used by rabbit producers whose products are exempt from inspection.

LD 745 An Act To Improve Forest Ranger Safety

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY L WILLETTE	OTP	