

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

Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3923-A but did not change a similar provision in Title 7, section 3942;

- 5. Provides that small animals can be euthanized if sick or injured;
- 6. Rrepeals the conditional animal shelter license law that was enacted in 2013; and
- 7. Clarifies that a person may not dispose of a deceased domesticated animal on public property or on private property without permission from the landowner.

LD 1024 An Act To Preserve Agricultural Fairs

Died Between Houses

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

This bill directs off-track betting facilities first licensed after January 1, 2015 to distribute funds at rates different from those distributed by off-track betting facilities first licensed before January 1, 2015. The bill allows owners of facilities licensed before January 1, 2015 to open new facilities. The bill also changes the market area regarding the location of an off-track betting facility from within 50 miles of the center of a racetrack betting facility to within 35 miles and repeals the law allowing licensees of off-track betting facilities that were licensed and open for business before April 1, 2000 and that have a market area with a population of less than 50,000 persons to distribute funds at a reduced rate.

This bill was not referred to a committee.

LD 1041 An Act To Restore Farmlands and Improve Watersheds

Died Between Houses

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

This bill establishes the Farmland Restoration Program, establishes a framework for the program, establishes the Farmland Restoration Fund and gives the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry authority to adopt rules to implement the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-128)

This amendment, which is the majority report, adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

LD 1089 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Agriculture by Expanding the Powers of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

ONTP

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

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to acquire, purchase and lease property for and on behalf of the State.