

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

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

October 2018

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STATE OF MAINE

128TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions of the 128th 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.

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 dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128th Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. 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 656 **An Act To Improve the Ability of Maine Companies To Manufacture
and Market Biobased Products**

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILL J TIPPING R	OTP-AM ONTP	S-43

This bill was reported out of committee in the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature and then carried over to the Second Regular Session on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order S.P. 601. This bill was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, from the Second Regular Session to the Second Special Session by joint order S.P. 748.

The bill provides a one-time appropriation to the Maine Technology Institute to provide competitive grants for the development, production and marketing of bioplastics.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-43)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It specifies that the grants are for the development, production and marketing of biobased products.

LD 669 **An Act To Address the Unmet Workforce Needs of Employers and To
Improve the Economic Future of Workers**

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ R PIERCE J	OTP-AM	S-399

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

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

This bill proposes to enact a comprehensive package of proposals designed to address the unmet workforce needs of employers and to improve the economic future of workers. These proposals may include, but are not limited to, proposals to:

1. Identify workforce needs;
2. Connect businesses with trained workers;
3. Maximize the benefits of educational assessment funding by focusing the funds on the students;
4. Provide incentives for educational institutions receiving state training funds to place graduates into the employment or school of the graduates' choice;
5. Strengthen the ability of the Maine Quality Centers, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 12725, to fulfill their mission of meeting the workforce education and training needs of new and expanding businesses in the State and providing new employment and career advancement opportunities for Maine people;
6. Design diverse programs to meet the needs of Maine employers;

Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

7. Prepare untrained workers to meet immediate and long-term needs;
8. Allow military training to count towards required training for certain certifications and licenses;
9. Establish a clearinghouse to connect workers with employers;
10. Identify educational programs necessary for specific types of employment and create a process to preemploy prospective workers while they are being trained;
11. Provide to people receiving public assistance the opportunity to permanently leave poverty behind by providing skills training that offers academic degrees, certifications or credentials and leads to employment with wages that can sustain families;
12. Establish workforce training programs targeted exclusively at individuals who are on public assistance or whose incomes meet certain criteria and provide transitional benefits including child care, health care, transportation supports and educational supports;
13. Align Maine's system of learning results with technical skills for current employment needs, support technical courses in high schools and integrate those courses with the high school curriculum and identify for middle school and secondary school students career paths that include alternatives that do not require college educations;
14. Identify barriers to the reentry by older citizens into the workforce;
15. Establish a program to identify and eliminate unfavorable tax policies with respect to retirement income and pensions and tax policies that discourage older citizens and retirees from returning to the workforce; and
16. Promote education to allow seniors to develop new skills.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-399)

This amendment strikes the bill, which is a concept draft, and replaces it with a number of changes to the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program administered by the Department of Labor, including the following.

1. It requires that the Department of Labor's outreach efforts regarding the program be tailored to focus on unemployed and underemployed workers, veterans, immigrants, recipients of benefits under the statewide food supplement program, low-skilled manufacturing workers and students enrolled in postsecondary education.
2. It directs the Department of Labor to collaborate with other entities to improve program outreach to target demographics, including, at a minimum, collaboration with the Maine Community College System.
3. It makes changes to the criteria used to determine approved education and training under the program, including consideration of employer input, changing demographics and traditional industries in the State in which innovations and new technologies are creating a demand for skilled workers.
4. It requires that a program participant be given information about the family development account program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapter 110, subchapter 4-A and the allowable uses of such an account.
5. It adds a requirement that a participant be offered comprehensive career planning services prior to the program's development of an individual career plan with the participant and permits the Department of Labor to partner with other entities to provide this service. It directs the department to include in this partnership, at a minimum, the Maine Community College System with respect to participants enrolled or seeking enrollment in a training or education course provided by the Maine Community College System. It also directs the Maine Community College System to assist the Department of Labor in program management and oversight for such participants.

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6. It repeals the January 1, 2020 repeal provision on the eligibility for the program of a full-time student at a public secondary school enrolled in a career and technical education program at a career and technical education center or a career and technical education region.

This amendment also amends the law allowing a minor 16 or 17 years of age to be employed in an otherwise hazardous occupation for which the minor has been trained or certified from a vocational, career and technical or cooperative education program approved by the Department of Education, if the minor has graduated from the program, by adding a requirement that the minor has also graduated from high school.

LD 700 An Act To Give Flexibility to Employees and Employers for Temporary Layoffs

**PUBLIC 453
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARRY W BELLOWS S	OTP-AM	H-749 S-456 VOLK A S-521 HAMPER J

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature by joint order H.P. 1138. This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over on the Special Appropriations Table from the Second Regular Session to the Second Special Session by joint order S.P. 748.

This bill creates an exemption from the eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits dealing with work search for an individual otherwise eligible for unemployment benefits when that individual has been temporarily laid off with a definite recall date of not more than 12 weeks from the date of the individual's temporary layoff.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-749)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. It creates an exemption from the eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits dealing with work search. Under this new exemption, an individual who has been temporarily laid off by an employer with a definite recall date and is otherwise eligible for unemployment benefits is exempt from the requirement to search for work while receiving benefits, as long as the individual remains in contact with and is able and available to work for that employer. This exemption may be used up to six weeks during an individual's unemployment benefit year, and may be used beyond six weeks subject to approval by the Department of Labor.

The amendment limits the area in which an individual must be able and available to work to a geographic area that is not more than 35 miles from the individual's residence, and it limits the reemployment services and eligibility assessment requirements to individuals who have not completed those requirements in the prior five years. It also adds an emergency preamble and clause and an appropriations and allocations section.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-456)

This amendment adds to the Committee Amendment a requirement that the Department of Labor report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters by January 15, 2021, regarding the effects of the exemption created to allow a temporarily laid off employee to obtain benefits from the Unemployment Trust Fund without completing the work search requirements, including aggregate data regarding the employees and employers affected and the amount of benefits paid. The committee is authorized to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature related to the report.

Senate Amendment "B" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-521)

This amendment changes the allocation to fiscal year 2018-19.