

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

August 2017

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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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 128<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. 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 date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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 Judiciary*

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-280)**

This amendment is the majority report. Current law prohibits district attorneys and assistant district attorneys from appearing as counsel or engaging in the private practice of law while in their full-time positions. This amendment adds to the provisions of the bill by allowing district attorneys and assistant district attorneys to provide legal services for free. Conflict of interest restrictions in rules governing the conduct of attorneys, as well as employment policies, still apply.

This amendment was not adopted.

### **LD 668      An Act To Facilitate the Return of Unclaimed Property**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D BRYANT M	ONTP	

Under the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, entities that hold property that is presumed abandoned must report that property to the administrator, who is the Treasurer of State, on an annual basis. The report includes the name of each apparent owner of the presumed abandoned property and the value of the property. This bill requires the administrator to compile a cumulative list of all apparent owners of presumed abandoned property having a total value of at least \$10,000 that has been paid or delivered to the administrator at least 36 months prior to the compiling of the list. The administrator is required to release the list of apparent owners, without identifying the property or its value, upon written request. See also LD 821.

### **LD 677      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Post-conviction Review in Order To Facilitate the Fair Hearing of All Evidence in Each Case Involving a Claim of Innocence**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M BRAKEY E	ONTP	

This bill amends the statutory provisions regarding criminal post-conviction review to allow the filing of a petition for post-conviction review claiming actual innocence at any time during the period of direct impediment, except that it may not be filed within one year of a judgment on a prior petition for post-conviction review on the same conviction. This bill requires that a petition for post-conviction review claiming actual innocence receive at least one evidentiary hearing in which the petitioner may submit new evidence and evidence submitted in prior proceedings on the same matter.

### **LD 697      Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Study the Roles and Rights of Grandparents in Raising Their Grandchildren**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WARD K ROSEN K	ONTP	

This resolve requires the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to convene a study commission to examine the increasing role of grandparents in raising their grandchildren and appropriate legal rights of grandparents in the care, custody and control of those grandchildren.