

# 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 LABOR, COMMERCE,  
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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\*Committee member for a portion of the session

# 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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development***

Maine Rural Development Authority to provide technical assistance, planning grants and implementation grants for the redevelopment and marketing of nonproductive industrial or manufacturing sites in rural communities. The authority may use funds from the Commercial Facilities Development Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 13120-P to fund the activities of the Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program.

The amendment also requires the authority, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Business Development, to conduct an inventory of all nonproductive manufacturing and industrial sites in the State that may be eligible for assistance.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 174 establishes the Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program within the Maine Rural Development Authority to provide technical assistance, planning grants and implementation grants for the redevelopment and marketing of nonproductive industrial or manufacturing sites in rural communities. The authority may use funds from the Commercial Facilities Development Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 13120-P to fund the activities of the Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program.

Public Law 2017, chapter 174 also requires the authority, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Business Development, to conduct an inventory of all nonproductive manufacturing and industrial sites in the State that may be eligible for assistance.

Public Law 2017, chapter 174 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 12, 2017.

### **LD 1500      An Act To Modernize Data Collection and Reporting and Information Access for the Department of Labor**

**Died Between Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK A VACHON K	ONTP OTP	

This bill conforms the laws identifying the responsibilities of the Commissioner of Labor relating to the collection and use of data with the Department of Labor's current practices of collecting and publishing data and allows for this information as well as information on labor laws to be made available in various formats, including in electronic formats. The bill adds the Director of the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation to the list of employees who are appointed by the Commissioner of Labor and who serve at the commissioner's pleasure. The bill repeals sections of law regarding the availability of information to trainees. The bill also repeals the Nontraditional Occupation Act.

### **LD 1501      An Act To Increase Success and Promote Growth among Maine Small Businesses**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VITELLI E PIERCE J	ONTP	

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing the Maine Microenterprise Initiative Fund.

1. It changes the name of the Maine Microenterprise Initiative Fund to the Maine Small Business Initiative Fund.

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

2. It requires that a community-based organization have a demonstrated ability to leverage existing community-based resources and have a plan to promote collaboration and connection among entrepreneurs and community resources in order to be eligible to receive a grant from the fund.
3. It defines "small business" as a business located in the State that produces goods or provides services and has 20 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, including, but not limited to, contractors and independent consultants, particularly those in trades and technology industries; family-owned small businesses whose founders are nearing retirement; small businesses undergoing change of ownership; and small businesses engaged in agriculture, forestry or fishing.
4. It authorizes the Department of Economic and Community Development to award a grant from the fund to a community-based organization to aid that organization in providing training to small businesses that show a high potential for growth, including training to provide them with the network, resources and motivation required to build a sustainable business of size and scale. To be eligible for training, a small business with a high potential for growth must have been established for at least three years and have annual revenue between \$200,000 and \$5,000,000 per year.
5. It requires the department, when making grants from the fund, to give priority to applications that target aid to areas with a higher percentage of small businesses with five or fewer employees and low median household incomes.
6. It requires that an applicant for a grant to provide training to small businesses that show a high potential for growth must demonstrate a proven ability to increase the growth of small business training participants.
7. It requires that technical assistance and training must address issues of regulatory compliance, personnel training and support, including wages, hours, benefits, health and wellness and environmental and safety issues, and other issues that affect performance, management and legal obligations of small business owners.
8. It requires a community-based organization that receives a grant from the fund to provide a 50% match in the form of cash, staff time and overhead expense directly attributable to small business training and technical assistance.

**LD 1503      An Act To Amend Criteria for Issuing a Certificate of Approval for  
Certain Projects under the Finance Authority of Maine Act**

**PUBLIC 95  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK A	OTP	

This bill amends a provision in the Finance Authority of Maine Act related to bond financing for energy projects to require as part of the Finance Authority of Maine's approval criteria that a borrower demonstrate a strong likelihood instead of a reasonable likelihood of the borrower's ability to repay the bonds through project revenues or other revenues and collateral, to match other authority moral obligation bond program requirements.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 95 amends a provision in the Finance Authority of Maine Act related to bond financing for energy projects to require as part of the Finance Authority of Maine's approval criteria that a borrower demonstrate a strong likelihood instead of a reasonable likelihood of the borrower's ability to repay the bonds through project revenues or other revenues and collateral, to match other authority moral obligation bond program requirements.

Public Law 2017, chapter 95 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 26, 2017.