

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 AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Conservation, and adds to the task force's duties the duty to examine the effect of international trade policy on state agricultural commodities and the recommendations presented in the 2003 Blaine House Conference on Maine's Natural Resource-based Industry: Charting a New Course report.

The amendment requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to provide staff support to the task force, and requires the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine to designate a representative to serve as a resource to the task force.

The task force is required to submit a report including findings and recommendations to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-389)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee.

This amendment narrows the task force's duties to the effect that the consolidation of the former Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the former Department of Conservation has had on agricultural issues in this State and requires that one of the public members represent potato farmers.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-690)

This amendment amends Committee Amendment "A" by removing the requirement that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry convene a departmental task force and invite representatives to participate in the task force. Instead, the amendment establishes the Task Force To Examine Agricultural Issues, as a legislative study, and gives appointing authority to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The amendment does not change the membership of the task force and it provides that members of the task force are not entitled to reimbursement for their expenses.

LD 1766

An Act To Improve Marketing Efficiency in the Harness Racing Industry by Requiring Its Promotion by the State Harness Racing Commission and by Repealing the Harness Racing Promotional Board

PUBLIC 371

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITE D	OTP-AM	H-652

This bill adds promotion of harness racing to the existing responsibilities of the State Harness Racing Commission.

The bill also repeals the Harness Racing Promotional Board and transfers the funds held by the board to the Harness Racing Promotional Fund, which will be administered by the State Harness Racing Commission and used to promote harness racing.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-652)

This amendment requires that the funds in the Harness Racing Promotional Fund be used solely for the marketing and promotion of harness racing and requires the State Harness Racing Commission to invite input on the marketing and promotion of harness racing in this State from a statewide association of harness horsemen, a statewide association of Standardbred breeders, a statewide association of agricultural fairs and persons who are members of organizations representing the interests of commercial harness racing tracks and off-track betting facilities.

The amendment also requires the State Harness Racing Commission, in its annual report, to include an account of the commission's operations and actions regarding the promotion of harness racing, a summary of income and expenses of the Harness Racing Promotional Fund, including any receipts and disbursements, and an assessment of the economic condition of the harness racing industry in this State. The amendment also changes the beginning date

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

of the annual report from April 1, 2018 to February 15, 2019.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 371 repeals the Harness Racing Promotional Board and requires the State Harness Racing Commission to promote harness racing in the State through the formation of advisory subcommittees, facilitation and marketing plans, the expenditure or granting of funds, and by inviting input on the promotion of harness racing from stakeholders.

Public Law 2017, chapter 371 changes the date of the annual harness racing report to February 15, 2019, and annually thereafter, and requires the report to include an account of the commission's operations and actions regarding the promotion of harness racing, a summary of income and expenses of the Harness Racing Promotion Fund, including any receipts and disbursements, and an assessment of the economic condition of the harness racing industry in this State.

Public Law 2017, chapter 371 establishes the Harness Racing Promotional Fund to be used solely for the marketing and promotion of harness racing in the State and transfers all unexpended balances of the Harness Racing Promotional Board to the Harness Racing Promotional Fund.

LD 1773 Resolve, Directing the Bureau of Parks and Lands To Transfer Land in RESOLVE 51
the Town of Pittston

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HANLEY J CUSHING A	OTP-AM	H-620

This resolve directs the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to transfer a portion of a parcel of land situated on Arnold Road in the Town of Pittston to the First Congregational Church of Pittston.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-620)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2017, chapter 51 directs the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to transfer a .30 acre parcel of land situated on Arnold Road in the Town of Pittston, Kennebec County and recorded on the Town of Pittston property tax map U-13, Lot 9 to the First Congregational Church of Pittston.

LD 1789 An Act Authorizing Changes to the Ownership and Leases of Certain PUBLIC 362
Public Lands

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P	OTP-AM	S-416

This bill transfers those leases of public reserved lands granted by an act of the Legislature before the establishment of an agency in the executive branch of State Government for managing leases of public reserved lands to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.