

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, RESEARCH  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

July 2009

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# STATE OF MAINE

124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

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; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY.....	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY.....	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....	Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 12, 2009. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

# Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

This bill waives the Pine Tree Development Zone unemployment and wage requirements for Cumberland County in order to allow the county to be eligible for Pine Tree Development Zone benefits.

**LD 733**

## **Resolve, To Examine Environmental Effects of the Resource Recovery System**

**RESOLVE 130**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NASS R	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-195 S-284 SCHNEIDER

This resolve is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to review and evaluate the beverage container laws in the context of existing municipal recycling programs with a focus on the environmental effects that these laws and programs generate. The review will include an assessment of:

1. Current recycling rates;
2. The carbon footprints created by the beverage recycling laws and municipal recycling programs;
3. Comprehensive recycling programs in the State;
4. Barriers to comprehensive recycling;
5. Alternative models of sustainability;
6. Energy and economic efficiencies;
7. The effect of educational programs on recycling rates; and
8. Litter prevention and waste reduction efforts.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-195)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It replaces the bill, which was a concept draft, with a resolve that directs the Executive Department, State Planning Office, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to oversee a 2-year study to be performed by an independent private entity to review the State's beverage container laws in the context of existing municipal recycling programs, with a focus on the environmental effects that these laws and programs generate. The resolve requires the State Planning Office and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to engage the assistance of an expert consultant in the field of municipal recycling programs and their environmental effects to assist in the development of the request for proposals for the study. The resolve also provides that if private funds from outside sources for the expert consultant and study are received by January 15, 2010, the study must be completed no later than January 15, 2012, unless a one-year extension is necessary to complete the study. It requires the State Planning Office and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters as soon as outside funding for the study is received and to provide the committee with an interim report on the status of the study by January 15, 2011.

This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

### **Committee Amendment "B" (S-196)**

## *Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development*

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It replaces the bill, which was a concept draft, with a resolve that directs the Executive Department, State Planning Office, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to oversee a 2-year study to be performed by an independent private entity to review the State's beverage container laws in the context of existing municipal beverage container recycling programs, with a focus on the environmental effects that these laws and programs generate. The resolve requires the State Planning Office and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to engage the assistance of an expert consultant in the field of municipal beverage container recycling programs and their environmental effects to assist in the development of the request for proposals for the study. The resolve also provides that if private funds from outside sources for the expert consultant and study are received by January 15, 2010, the study must be completed no later than January 15, 2012, unless a one-year extension is necessary to complete the study. It requires the State Planning Office and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters as soon as outside funding for the study is received and to provide the committee with an interim report on the status of the study by January 15, 2011.

This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

### **Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-284)**

This amendment provides that a 5-member work group consisting of the Director of the State Planning Office within the Executive Department or the director's designee, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources or the commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee and a representative of the Maine Municipal Association oversee a 2-year study to be performed by an independent private entity to review the focus on the environmental effects that laws and programs regarding recycling have generated. The representatives of the State Planning Office and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall serve as cochairs of the work group. The work group shall engage the assistance of a qualified consultant in the relevant fields and tasks to be reviewed. The expert consultant and study must be funded through private funds received by the State from outside sources.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2009, chapter 130 provides that a 5-member work group consisting of the Director of the State Planning Office within the Executive Department or the director's designee, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources or the commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee and a representative of the Maine Municipal Association oversee a 2-year study to be performed by an independent private entity to review the focus on the environmental effects that laws and programs regarding recycling have generated. The representatives of the State Planning Office and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall serve as cochairs of the work group. The work group shall engage the assistance of a qualified consultant in the relevant fields and tasks to be reviewed. The expert consultant and study must be funded through private funds received by the State from outside sources. The study must be completed no later than January 15, 2012, unless an extension is necessary. The work group is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development on its progress on January 15, 2010 and January 15, 2011.

### **LD 813 An Act To Require Plain Language in Consumer Contracts**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)

EVES  
RECTOR

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted