

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**

April 2010

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# STATE OF MAINE

124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND 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 Second 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died</i>
<i>ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report)</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Monday, July 12, 2010. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

*Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

**LD 1512**

**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Somerset County Budget Procedure**

**PUBLIC 576  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CURTIS	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-640

This bill amends the laws governing the procedure for adopting the Somerset County budget by allowing the budget to be increased, decreased or altered by the budget committee based on information obtained during the public hearing process. The budget must be approved by a majority vote of the budget committee at a meeting called for that purpose. The county commissioners may adopt the budget as submitted by the budget committee or after increasing, decreasing or altering the proposed budget by a majority vote by June 30th. Current law requires a unanimous vote of the commissioners to change the budget. The bill also requires that, if the county does not approve a new budget, it must operate on an interim budget not to exceed the previous year's budget. Current law requires that, if the county does not approve a new budget, it operates on an interim budget not to exceed 80% of the previous year's budget.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-639)**

This amendment, which is the majority report, removes language in the bill that would change the Somerset County budget committee's procedure for adopting a budget and instead requires the budget committee to enter the reasons for any changes made to the proposed county budget into the minutes of the budget committee meeting. It clarifies that the budget committee must adopt the budget by a majority vote of the budget committee and requires that the budget must be adopted at a meeting no later than 15 days prior to the beginning of the county's fiscal year. It retains the process in current law of allowing the county commissioners to change the budget by unanimous vote and the budget committee to reject that change by a 2/3 vote of its membership. This amendment was not adopted.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-640)**

This amendment, which is the minority report, strikes out the section related to changing the budget adoption procedure of the Somerset County budget committee. It retains the section that requires the county to operate on an interim budget that does not exceed the previous year's budget if the budget is not approved before the start of the fiscal year.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2009, chapter 576 allows Somerset County to operate on an interim budget that does not exceed the previous year's budget if the budget is not approved before the start of the fiscal year.

Public Law 2009, chapter 576 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 31, 2010.

**LD 1513**

**An Act To Authorize Municipal Officers To Resolve Road-naming Disputes**

**PUBLIC 477**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAGNAN	OTP-AM	H-596