

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2011

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 125th 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. 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 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 125th Legislature is September 28, 2011. 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 State and Local Government

LD 780 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine ONTP
To Limit the Number of Terms Served in Total

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOW	ONTP	

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to limit the number of terms of office for State Senators and members of the House of Representatives to 8 terms in total.

LD 804 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine MINORITY
To Establish a Unicameral Legislature (ONTP) REPORT

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VALENTINO	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to abolish the Senate and the House of Representatives and to replace them with a unicameral Legislature made up of 151 members, who will be referred to as Senators. This reduction requires a reapportionment plan by the Legislature that convenes in 2013 so that the Legislature elected in November 2016 is unicameral.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-347)

This amendment strikes language regarding the applicability of requirements for the House of Representatives and the Senate to provisions regarding the unicameral Legislature, since both the House of Representatives and the Senate would cease to exist if the unicameral Legislature were approved.

LD 812 An Act To Allow Municipalities the Option To Subsidize Publicly PUBLIC 114
Owned Bus Stops through Advertising

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HARLOW PATRICK	OTP-AM	H-169

This bill allows a municipality or other political subdivision of this State to erect and maintain outdoor advertising signs at a publicly owned bus stop. This bill defines "bus stop" as a place where a public transport bus stops for the purpose of allowing passengers to board or leave the bus. The bill provides that the municipality or political subdivision is responsible for administration of outdoor advertising signs of publicly owned bus stops. This bill requires that any revenue collected by a municipality or other political subdivision through the advertising must be used for transportation purposes, including, but not limited to, maintenance of a publicly owned bus stop.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-169)

This amendment removes from the bill the authority of a political subdivision of the State, other than a municipality,

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

to erect and maintain advertising signs at a publicly owned bus stop.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 114 allows a municipality to erect and maintain outdoor advertising signs at a publicly owned bus stop. "Bus stop" is defined as a place where a public transport bus stops for the purpose of allowing passengers to board or leave the bus. The municipality is responsible for administration of outdoor advertising signs of publicly owned bus stops. Any revenue collected by a municipality through the advertising must be used for transportation purposes, including, but not limited to, maintenance of a publicly owned bus stop.

LD 840 An Act Regarding the Hiring of Immediate Family Members in State Government

MAJORITY (ONTP) REPORT

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILL C BLISS	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

This bill requires the Governor, the Legislature and the constitutional officers to hire or promote staff within those offices based on qualifications and prohibits the hiring of family or household members. This bill also prohibits an employee from supervising a family or household member of that employee, which includes a spouse, domestic partner, parent, natural or legally adopted child, stepchild, sibling, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law. It does not apply to anyone hired or promoted in those offices prior to October 1, 2011.

LD 854 An Act To Require the Treasurer of State To Publish All State Liabilities

PUBLIC 188

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THOMAS	OTP-AM	S-148

This bill requires the Treasurer of State to publish all liabilities of the State on the publicly accessible portion of the treasurer's website.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-148)

This amendment specifies that the Treasurer of State must publish by July 31st of each year the latest information available regarding the liabilities of the State as of June 30th of that year. It also clarifies that "liabilities of the State" does not include state contracts for goods and services or vendor information.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 188 requires the Treasurer of State to publish by July 31st of each year the latest information available regarding the liabilities of the State as of June 30th of that year. "Liabilities of the State" includes all state debts, loans, bonds, unfunded liabilities and promises to pay, including issued and unissued bonds, pension liabilities, promises to provide health insurance in future years, Maine Governmental Facilities Authority bonds and any other debt or obligation that the State has guaranteed or promised to pay, but does not include state contracts for goods and services or vendor information.