

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

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 125<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. 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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 Transportation***

**LD 1379    An Act To Establish Training Routes for School Bus Drivers**

**MAJORITY  
(ONTP) REPORT**

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

This bill allows a person who is training to operate a school bus to activate flashing red lights before a stop is made even though no passengers are being picked up or discharged. This training may take place only on roads with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or less and during daylight hours.

**LD 1381    An Act Regarding the Requirement That Construction Equipment Have a License Plate**

**ONTP**

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

This bill provides that construction equipment, also known as special mobile equipment, that is not registered may be operated on that portion of a public way that is under construction.

**LD 1405    An Act To Amend the Laws Restricting Advertising on Public Ways**

**ONTP**

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

This bill amends the use of on-premises signs in the following ways.

1. It increases the distance that a sign may be erected from a principle structure of a business or point of interest from 1,000 feet to 2,500 feet.
2. It provides definitions of "point of interest," "outdoor area" and "principle structure" for purposes of determining distance for placement of on-premises signs.
3. It allows on-premises signs to be placed within 20 feet of the edge of certain public ways with more than 2 travel lanes if the signs are erected using approved breakaway mounting devices.
4. It requires the Commissioner of Transportation to manage the permitting process and to authorize the placement of signs adjacent to interstate highways larger and taller than allowed under current law.
5. It increases from 2 to 3 the number of approach signs a business or point of interest may have if that business or point of interest is not visible from or is located more than 1,000 feet from a public way intersection and permits

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those approach signs to be 2-sided.

- 6. It allows changeable signs to change once per minute; current law limits the change to once every 20 minutes.
- 7. It allows a business or point of interest to have one changeable sign per public way that the business or point of interest abuts.
- 8. It allows time and temperature signs to also display the date and permits those signs to change as frequently as once every 2 seconds.
- 9. It allows for changeable signs to be erected adjacent to and for viewing from the interstate highway system.
- 10. It increases the maximum height of a freestanding sign structure statewide from 25 feet to 35 feet above grade.
- 11. It recognizes the value and the role of signs for disseminating information to the motoring public.
- 12. It allows for placement of signs by real estate brokerage agencies for the sale of real estate.

**LD 1454      An Act To Allow Police Officers To Operate Mobile Command Units      PUBLIC 165**  
**without a Special License**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HASKELL BRANNIGAN	OTP-AM	H-226

This bill provides that law enforcement officers in the State are allowed to operate a commercial motor vehicle as a mobile command unit under the same allowance given to firefighters and operators of fire apparatus.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-226)**

This amendment adds a definition of "mobile command unit," which is a motor vehicle designed and used by a law enforcement agency primarily as a command and control platform for emergency response.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 165 provides that law enforcement officers in the State are allowed to operate a commercial motor vehicle as a mobile command unit under the same allowance given to firefighters and operators of fire apparatus. This law also defines "mobile command unit" as a motor vehicle designed and used by a law enforcement agency primarily as a command and control platform for emergency response.

**LD 1495      An Act To Allow 45 Days To Register a Newly Acquired Motor Vehicle      ONTP**

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

This bill changes the period of time of a motor vehicle temporary registration plate from 14 days to 45 days.