

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE,  
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

June 2012

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# STATE OF MAINE

125<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 LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the Second 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.

<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; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>
<i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i> .....	<i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i>
<i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i> .....	<i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>
<i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i> ...	<i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation 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>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 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Thursday, August 30, 2012. 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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development**

**LD 1877     An Act To Clarify Authorized Associations of Veterinary Practice**

**PUBLIC 594  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODALL	OTP-AM	S-487

Current law requires a veterinarian to practice veterinary medicine under the veterinarian's own name or as part of a professional association. The joint practice with another person or corporation that is not licensed to practice veterinary medicine is prohibited.

This bill allows a licensed veterinarian to practice veterinary medicine as a salaried employee of a corporation or other legal entity that provides veterinarian-related services, such as diagnostic laboratory services, research and development and certification for import or export, as long as that veterinarian remains individually accountable for conduct under that veterinarian's license.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-487)**

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 594 allows a licensed veterinarian to practice veterinary medicine as a salaried employee of a corporation or other legal entity that provides veterinarian-related services, such as diagnostic laboratory services, research and development and certification for import or export, as long as that veterinarian remains individually accountable for conduct under that veterinarian's license.

Public Law 2011, chapter 594 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 5, 2012.

**LD 1885     An Act To Amend the Laws Pertaining to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund**

**PUBLIC 698**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TILTON	OTP-AM MAJ	H-893
RAYE	OTP-AM MIN	S-548 RAYE

This bill directs the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to apportion a minimum of 3% of the annual disbursements from the Maine Economic Improvement Fund among the University of Maine at Augusta, the University of Maine at Farmington, the University of Maine at Fort Kent, the University of Maine at Machias and the University of Maine at Presque Isle to support research and development.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-893)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It amends the section of the bill that requires the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to apportion beginning this year a minimum of 3% of the annual disbursements from the Maine Economic Improvement Fund among the University of Maine at Augusta, the University of Maine at Farmington, the University of Maine at Fort Kent, the University of Maine at Machias and the University of Maine at Presque Isle to support research and development. Instead, the amendment requires the

***Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development***

board to set the percentage of the annual disbursements to these university campuses beginning July 1, 2013, at a minimum of 2.5% of the annual disbursement and beginning July 1, 2015, at a minimum of 3% of the annual disbursement.

It also requires the board to include in its annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on the Maine Economic Improvement Fund a summary of the research and development projects at the smaller universities that have been funded as a result of these disbursements from the fund, as well as any external funding sources that have been leveraged as a result of these awards.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-548)**

This amendment establishes the Maine Economic Improvement Fund Task Force to review the Maine Economic Improvement Fund and recommend any changes necessary to enhance investment in targeted research and development and product innovation and to provide basic investment necessary to obtain matching funds and competitive grants from private and federal sources.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 698 requires the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to support research and development at the following university campuses by setting the percentage of the annual disbursements from the Maine Economic Improvement Fund beginning July 1, 2013, at a minimum of 2.5% of the annual disbursement, and beginning July 1, 2015, at a minimum of 3% of the annual disbursement: the University of Maine at Augusta; the University of Maine at Farmington; the University of Maine at Fort Kent; the University of Maine at Machias; and the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

The law also requires the board to include in its annual report on the Maine Economic Improvement Fund a summary of the research and development projects at the smaller universities that have been funded as a result of these disbursements from the fund, as well as any external funding sources that have been leveraged as a result of these awards.

The law also establishes the Maine Economic Improvement Fund Task Force to review the Maine Economic Improvement Fund and recommend any changes necessary to enhance investment in targeted research and development and product innovation, as well as to provide basic investment necessary to obtain matching funds and competitive grants from private and federal sources.

**LD 1890      An Act To Streamline the Process for Minors To Obtain a Work Permit**

**MAJORITY  
(ONTP) REPORT**

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

This bill attempts to simplify the process for minors to obtain work permits by creating a general work permit, which may be issued to a minor by a superintendent of schools of the school administrative unit in which the minor resides. The general work permit allows for summer and school-year employment. The bill also creates a master certificate for employers, which identifies those employers who provide jobs that are safe and age-appropriate for minors. The bill describes the process of distributing information regarding approved employers through the Department of Labor's publicly accessible website and career centers and the state Job Bank. Finally, the bill sets out safe working conditions and the consequences to employers if those conditions are not maintained.