

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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



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

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

July 2013

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. COLLEEN M. LACHOWICZ, CHAIR  
SEN. STAN J. GERZOFKY  
SEN. RONALD F. COLLINS

REP. ANNE P. GRAHAM, CHAIR  
REP. ANDREA M. BOLAND  
REP. TERESEA M. HAYES  
REP. BRIAN D. BOLDUC  
REP. JUSTIN MARK CHENETTE  
REP. CATHERINE M. NADEAU  
REP. H. DAVID COTTA  
REP. SHARRI K. MACDONALD  
REP. ALLEN MICHAEL NADEAU  
REP. JETHRO D. PEASE

**STAFF:**

ALYSON MAYO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

# STATE OF MAINE

126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126<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 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 9, 2013. 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 49**

**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Payment of Fees to Registers of Deeds**

**VETO  
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY GRATWICK	OTP	

This bill requires that fees for recording a document with the register of deeds by a company, state or federal agency or department that has an automated clearinghouse automatic deposit agreement with a registry of deeds must be made in accordance with that agreement.

**LD 80**

**An Act To Change the Schedule for the Beginning of the Biennial Budget Cycle**

**ACCEPTED  
MAJORITY  
(ONTP) REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COTTA KATZ	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill shifts the start of the fiscal biennium for the state budget from the first regular session of the Legislature to the second regular session of the Legislature, beginning for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. This bill also provides that the state budget beginning on July 1, 2015 is a one-year budget.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-200)**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and shifts the start of the fiscal biennium for the state budget from the first regular session of the Legislature to the second regular session of the Legislature beginning with the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2018, instead of July 1, 2016 as proposed in the bill. It also provides that the state budget beginning July 1, 2017, instead of July 1, 2015 as proposed in the bill, is a one-year budget. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

**LD 82**

**An Act To Establish a People's Veto Process for Actions of County Commissioners**

**ACCEPTED  
MAJORITY  
(ONTP) REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THOMAS JOHNSON P	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill establishes a people's veto process for the actions of county commissioners. The process allows 5 days for a notice of intention to be filed with the county clerk and 30 days to collect signatures. The number of signatures must be equal to no less than 5% of the total votes cast in the county at the last gubernatorial election. Once the petition is certified by the county clerk, the action that was the subject of the county commissioners' vote must be suspended until a countywide election is held. If the action that was the subject of the county commissioners' vote is budget-related, an interim budget that is equal to the previous year's budget goes into effect until a countywide election is held. If the majority of voters cast their vote in opposition to the veto, the action that was the subject of the county commissioners' vote takes effect.