

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

July 2013

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STATE OF MAINE

126TH LEGISLATURE
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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 126th 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 126th 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 Judiciary

This bill does the following.

1. It reduces the filing fee for foreclosure actions from \$350, as set by administrative order, to \$150.
2. It prohibits a fee for mediation from being assessed unless the defendant answers the complaint or motion for summary judgment in a foreclosure action.
3. It makes clear that a court may enter summary judgment in a foreclosure action at any time. Under current court rules, the court must determine that certain requirements are met before entering summary judgment.

Foreclosure issues have been consolidated for consideration under LD 1389, which is carried over.

LD 135 **An Act To Require All Government Documents To Be Posted on the Internet** **ONTP**

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

This bill amends the laws concerning the information practices of public entities. Current law defines "public entity" to include the Legislature; the Judicial Department; a state agency or authority; the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College System; a county, municipality or school district or any regional or other political or administrative subdivision; and an advisory organization established, authorized or organized by law or resolve or by executive order issued by the Governor. This bill requires a public entity to make available on a publicly accessible site on the Internet all public records in the possession of the public entity.

LD 147 **An Act Regarding Adoption** **PUBLIC 137**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BECK LACHOWICZ	OTP-AM	H-124

This bill requires that, if an adoptee already has an adoptive parent, before the petition of a second adoptive parent may be granted, written consent to the adoption must be given by the existing adoptive parent.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-124)

This amendment replaces the bill and provides that the Probate Court may not issue a final decree of adoption unless the petitioner who filed the petition has been heard or has waived the opportunity for a hearing and the court is satisfied that all the current statutory requirements are met.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 137 provides that the Probate Court may not issue a final decree of adoption unless the petitioner who filed the petition has been heard or has waived the opportunity for a hearing and the court is satisfied that all the current statutory requirements are met.