

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

May 2014

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND**  
**ENACTED LAWS**

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 Second Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

**LD 138      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds That Have      ONTP**  
**Been Ratified by the Citizens of the State**

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill is a concept draft, pursuant to Joint Rule 208, which proposes to amend the laws governing the issuance of General Fund bonds that have been approved by referendum by the citizens of the State. Under this bill, once the issuance of bonds is approved by referendum, the bonds must be issued by the Treasurer of State unless the Treasurer of State determines, based on information available to the Treasurer of State, that the issuance of the bonds will adversely affect the credit rating of the State; a delay in the issuance of the bonds will likely result in a more financially advantageous interest rate; or alternative funding sources are available to implement, within a comparable time frame, the projects and the purposes for which the bonds were authorized and ratified, and use of the alternative funding sources is fiscally preferable.

**LD 156      RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine      Final Passage**  
**Concerning Early Voting and Voting by Absentee Ballot      Failed**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHAW LANGLEY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-587

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the Legislature to authorize a process to allow a qualified voter to vote at a polling place in or outside of the city, town or plantation where that voter's residence has been established during a period immediately preceding an election. It also allows for voting by absentee ballot by citizens for reasons deemed sufficient without requiring in the Constitution of Maine that the citizens be absent or physically incapacitated.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-587)**

This amendment eliminates the language in the resolution that requires the Legislature to authorize early voting by voters within or outside their places of residence and instead directs the Legislature to authorize a process of early voting that allows voting to occur in the same manner as on election day during a period immediately preceding an election.

**LD 180      An Act Concerning the Use of Tobacco Settlement Funds for Children's      ONTP**  
**Health Care**

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

***Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs***

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill amends the law on the Fund for a Healthy Maine to require that funding for children's health care not be reduced in order to address a budget deficit.

**LD 182      An Act To Support the Maine Lobster Industry      ONTP**

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill makes a General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 2013-14 to the Lobster Promotion Council to increase its work to promote and market Maine lobsters in state, regional, national and international markets.

**LD 186      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Disability Retirement Determinations by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System      ONTP**

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

Under current law, when making determinations on applications for disability retirement, the Maine Public Employees Retirement System is required to consider the applicant's disability application, medical records and the analysis of a medical board that is designated by, and advisory to, the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. This bill provides instead that the retirement system may consider, but is not required to consider, the medical board's analysis.

**LD 228      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Energy Costs by Weatherizing and Upgrading the Energy Efficiency of Maine Homes and Businesses and To Create Jobs by Providing for a Trained Workforce for Maine's Energy Future      ONTP**

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill authorizes a General Fund bond issue to reduce energy costs and to create jobs. The funds provided by this