

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**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

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# STATE OF MAINE

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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 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***

This bill allows the code enforcement officer to grant all permits to build a disability ramp, including any structure that requires a variance. Previous law required a municipal zoning board of appeals to approve the construction of a disability ramp requiring a variance before a permit is issued by a code enforcement officer.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-222)**

This amendment specifies that the authorization to issue a permit to an owner of a dwelling to make the dwelling accessible to a person with a disability is provided by municipal ordinance.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 186 provides that the authorization to issue a permit to an owner of a dwelling to make the dwelling accessible to a person with a disability is provided by municipal ordinance.

Public Law 2013, chapter 186 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 31, 2013.

**LD 183      An Act To Exempt Municipalities That Do Not Hold Annual Meetings      ONTP**  
**from Required Publication of an Annual Report**

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

This bill provides that only municipalities that hold a town meeting are required to publish an annual report.

**LD 210      An Act To Require That Forms, Pamphlets and Other Documents Be      ONTP**  
**Designed To Permit the Continued Use of the Materials**

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

This bill provides that a state agency, board, commission or department may not include the name of a state agency, board, commission or department official on any document produced and distributed to the public after January 1, 2014 unless the inclusion of the name is required to effectuate the legal purposes of the document. The purpose of this bill is to reduce waste resulting from the need to reprint pamphlets, forms and other documents when the name of a state agency, board, commission or department official changes.

**LD 211      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Limitation on County      CARRIED OVER**  
**Assessments**

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

This bill changes the definition of "property growth factor," which is integral in the calculation of a county's annual assessment limitation, in the laws governing the limitation on county assessments. The revised definition uses state valuation data in determining the property growth factor, rather than relying on municipal reporting of data based on the assessed valuation of real and personal property.