

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

LD 283 An Act To Eliminate the Elm Tree Restoration Fund

PUBLIC 12

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T TIMBERLAKE	OTP	

This bill eliminates the Elm Tree Restoration Fund, a program that has no funding and that has never been used.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 12 eliminates the Elm Tree Restoration Fund, a program that has no funding and that has never been used.

LD 284 An Act To Amend the Duties of the Division of Forestry

PUBLIC 18

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BOYLE CRAY	OTP	

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forestry to conduct a landowner relations program and repeals a requirement that the division print copies of forestry and forestry-related laws biennially.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 18 requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forestry to conduct a landowner relations program and repeals a requirement that the division print copies of forestry and forestry-related laws biennially.

LD 285 An Act To Electronically Issue Permits for Burning

PUBLIC 35

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BOYLE GIFFORD	OTP-AM	S-14

This bill directs the Director of the Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop a system to electronically issue permits for burning in all areas of the State using a publicly accessible site on the Internet. Current law provides a pilot project for the issuance of such permits in certain parts of the State. The bill also specifies the procedure for the disbursement of the fee collected for a permit for burning that is issued electronically.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-14)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 35 directs the Director of the Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop a system to electronically issue permits for burning in all areas of the State

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

using a publicly accessible site on the Internet. Current law provides a pilot project for the issuance of such permits in certain parts of the State. The bill also specifies the procedure for the disbursement of the fee collected for a permit for burning that is issued electronically.

LD 286 An Act To Reduce Reporting Responsibilities of the Department of PUBLIC 29
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T TIMBERLAKE	OTP	

The purpose of this bill is to reduce redundancy in oversight reporting to the Legislature by repealing 2 reporting requirements of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, one regarding the Maine Agricultural Internship and Training Program and the other regarding the nutrient management program.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 29 reduces redundancy in oversight reporting to the Legislature by repealing 2 reporting requirements of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, one regarding the Maine Agricultural Internship and Training Program and the other regarding the nutrient management program.

LD 287 An Act To Improve Funding of Agricultural Development Projects PUBLIC 64

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BOYLE CRAY	OTP-AM	S-36

This bill amends the laws governing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's agricultural development fund to provide more flexibility with respect to grants and contracts and allow the department to directly fund agricultural development projects.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-36)

This amendment is the unanimous report of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. It requires that rules adopted regarding the implementation and use of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's agricultural development fund are major substantive rules in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 64 amends the laws governing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's agricultural development fund to provide more flexibility with respect to grants and contracts and to allow the department to directly fund agricultural development projects. Public Law 2013, chapter 64 requires that rules adopted regarding the implementation and use of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's agricultural development fund are major substantive rules in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.