

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

**LD 394 An Act To Add Members of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs to the
Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission and Add Corresponding
Members for the State**

PUBLIC 81

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

This bill adds to the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission two members of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and two members appointed by the Governor.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 81 adds to the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission two members of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and two members appointed by the Governor.

**LD 395 An Act To Allow a Pet Owner To Collect Noneconomic Damages for the
Death of a Pet**

ONTP

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

This bill creates a cause of action for noneconomic damages to be collected by a pet owner when another person or the person's animal kills the pet or injures the pet and the injuries lead to the death of the pet. The person must have been acting unlawfully and either intentionally or negligently.

LD 396 An Act To Appropriate Sufficient Funds for Indigent Legal Services

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PRIEST VALENTINO	OTP-AM	

This bill provides a General Fund appropriation of \$3,490,209 in fiscal year 2013-14 and \$5,995,237 in fiscal year 2014-15 for the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services to increase reimbursement for indigent legal services from \$50 per hour to \$70 per hour effective October 1, 2013 and to \$75 per hour effective July 1, 2014.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-123)

This amendment revises the rule-making authority of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services to provide that rules concerning the rates of compensation for assigned counsel and contract counsel are major substantive rules. It also amends the existing language concerning major substantive rules to be consistent with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

This amendment adjusts the appropriation initiative to reflect an increase in the rate of reimbursement for indigent legal services to \$60 per hour beginning July 1, 2013 and \$65 per hour beginning July 1, 2014. The Biennial Budget, Public Law 2013, chapter 368, includes additional funding for indigent legal services and increases the hourly rate by \$5 beginning July 1, 2014.

This amendment directs the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services to report to the Joint Standing