

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 STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**

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 State and Local Government

This bill repeals a provision contained in Private and Special Law 1947, chapter 124, that requires the dissolution and conveyance of assets from the Augusta Parking District to the City of Augusta upon payment of all bonds issued by the district.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 4 repeals a provision contained in Private and Special Law 1947, chapter 124, that requires the dissolution and conveyance of assets from the Augusta Parking District to the City of Augusta upon payment of all bonds issued by the district.

LD 397 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Development and Administration of Municipal Budgets in Unorganized Territories ONTP

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

This bill amends the laws governing the development and administration of the county portion of municipal cost component budgets for the unorganized territory. The bill changes counties' annual deadlines for submitting to state officials their unorganized territory municipal cost component budgets from November 7th to February 1st. The bill separates a county's review of its unorganized territory municipal cost component budget from its general fund budget review, thus allowing more time for both processes. The bill also eliminates the role of a county budget committee in approving an excess or increase in the county growth limitation factor for the unorganized territory.

LD 398 An Act To Eliminate the Constituent Services Allowance for Legislators ACCEPTED MAJORITY (ONTP) REPORT

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHENETTE	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill eliminates the constituent services allowance for Legislators.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-426)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It changes the title and strikes and replaces the bill and provides that a Legislator may opt out of receiving the constituent services allowance. The amendment also provides that a Legislator who elects to receive the constituent services allowance must keep a record of expenses paid for with the allowance through April 1st of the 2nd year of the legislative biennium. The record must be submitted by April 15th of that year to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, and the executive director must make the records available upon request and free of charge.

LD 399 An Act To Change the Name of the Department of Audit PUBLIC 16

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRAHAM LACHOWICZ	OTP	

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

This bill changes the name of the Department of Audit to the Office of the State Auditor.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 16 changes the name of the Department of Audit to the Office of the State Auditor.

LD 413 An Act To Expand Eligible Project Costs in Development Districts

**DIED BETWEEN
HOUSES**

Sponsor(s)

GATTINE

Committee Report

OTP
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill permits tax increment financing funds to be used to fund projects approved by more than one municipality under an interlocal agreement.

LD 465 An Act To Improve Access to Public Land Records

**ACCEPTED
MAJORITY
(ONTP) REPORT**

Sponsor(s)

MORIARTY

Committee Report

ONTP
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

This bill improves access to public land records by limiting the fees registries of deeds may charge for digital copies. Maine's Freedom of Access Act limits the fees state agencies may charge for copies of public records to the cost of producing copies, but the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 33 permits registries of deeds to charge a much higher fee for digital copies. The bill also removes outdated references to abstracts, since registries of deeds no longer prepare such documents.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-199)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and changes the cost for any quantity of copies produced on media other than paper from 110% of the costs incurred to fulfill the copies request to 125% of the costs incurred.

LD 474 An Act To Provide for Edible Landscaping in a Portion of Capitol Park

PUBLIC 153

Sponsor(s)

HICKMAN

Committee Report

OTP-AM
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

H-102

This bill requires edible landscaping in a portion of Capitol Park. The development of the edible landscaping portion of Capitol Park is subject to available funding, and the State House and Capitol Park Commission may seek and accept public and private funds for this purpose.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-102)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It strikes the bill and directs the State House and Capitol Park Commission to arrange for and implement a plan to incorporate food-producing landscaping into a portion of