

# 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 TRANSPORTATION**

July 2013

**STAFF:**

KAREN NADEAU-DRILLEN, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
&  
SUZANNE VOYNIK, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW  
5 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1635

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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 Transportation*

**LD 582**      **An Act To Enhance and Encourage Economic Development of the Lower Penobscot River Basin by Creating a Niche Port Plan**      **ONTP**

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

This bill, which is a concept draft, proposes to amend the current law to enhance and encourage economic development and opportunities in the lower Penobscot River basin through the development of a strategic plan for niche port development in the region that would be similar to the Department of Transportation "three-port strategy."

**LD 588**      **An Act To Abolish the Maine Turnpike Authority and Transfer Its Functions and Duties to the Department of Transportation**      **ONTP**

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

This bill abolishes the Maine Turnpike Authority and transfers its duties and the operation of the turnpike to the Department of Transportation. The department is required to submit a plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by January 1, 2014 that will accomplish the transfer by January 1, 2015.

**LD 589**      **An Act To Strengthen the Law Regarding Texting and Driving**      **PUBLIC 188**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PEOPLES	OTP-AM	H-112

This bill makes texting and driving in which an accident occurs resulting in death or serious bodily injury a Class C crime.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-112)**

This amendment, which replaces the bill, removes the upper limit on the fine for the first offense of the prohibition against engaging in text messaging while driving. The amendment increases the fine for a 2nd or subsequent offense within a 3-year period of the prohibition against engaging in text messaging while driving from not less than \$250 and not more than \$500 to not less than \$500. The amendment also directs the Secretary of State to suspend the license of a person who has been previously adjudicated for a violation of the prohibition against engaging in text messaging while driving within a 3-year period.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 188 removes the upper limit on the fine for the first offense of the prohibition against engaging in text messaging while driving. The law also increases the fine for a 2nd or subsequent offense within a 3-year period of the prohibition against engaging in text messaging while driving from not less than \$250 and not more than \$500 to not less than \$500. It also directs the Secretary of State to suspend the license of a person who has been previously adjudicated for a violation of the prohibition against engaging in text messaging while driving within a 3-year period.