

# 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 ENVIRONMENT AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

July 2013

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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 Environment and Natural Resources***

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment allows the construction of a deck of up to 700 square feet in area over a river without meeting certain otherwise applicable water and wetland setback requirements if the proposed deck will be located within a downtown revitalization project and is either attached to or accessory to a use in a structure that was built prior to 1971.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 140 allows the construction of a deck of up to 700 square feet in area over a river without meeting certain otherwise applicable water and wetland setback requirements if the proposed deck will be located within a downtown revitalization project and is either attached to or accessory to a use in a structure that was built prior to 1971.

**LD 641      An Act To Exempt Agriculture, Timber Harvesting and Public Employees from Certain Oversight in Shoreland Areas**

**PUBLIC 242  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO BLACK	OTP-AM	S-164

This bill provides for an exemption from the current law governing excavation activity in a shoreland zone. Current law requires an excavation contractor conducting excavation activity in a shoreland area to ensure that a person certified in erosion control practices is present at the site during earth-moving activity of one cubic yard or more. The bill provides that farmers using normal tilling practices are exempt from that requirement.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-164)**

This amendment replaces the bill. It exempts persons engaged in agriculture or timber harvesting and certain municipal, state and federal employees from the law requiring that a person certified in erosion control practices be present during certain earth-moving activity in a shoreland area. It also adds a definition of "agriculture" to the laws governing mandatory shoreland zoning.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 242 exempts persons engaged in agriculture or timber harvesting and certain municipal, state and federal employees from the law requiring that a person certified in erosion control practices be present during certain earth-moving activity in a shoreland area. It also adds a definition of "agriculture" to the laws governing mandatory shoreland zoning.

Public Law 2013, chapter 242 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 12, 2013.

**LD 642      An Act To Exempt All-terrain Vehicle Trail Management from Storm Water Management Requirements**

**PUBLIC 43**

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

Current law exempts from review by the Department of Environmental Protection for a storm water permit a project that involves the development, construction and maintenance of the statewide snowmobile trail system as long as certain criteria are met. This bill extends that same exemption to all-terrain vehicle trails.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Current law exempts from review by the Department of Environmental Protection for a storm water permit a project

*Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources*

that involves the development, construction and maintenance of the statewide snowmobile trail system as long as certain criteria are met. Public Law 2013, chapter 43 extends that same exemption to all-terrain vehicle trails.

**LD 674 An Act To Clarify the Natural Resources Protection Act**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY A COLLINS	ONTP	

This bill changes to 75 feet the setback for significant vernal pool habitat, high and moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat and shorebird nesting, feeding and staging areas. It also provides a mechanism to compensate landowners for the property value losses incurred as a result of more stringent setback or buffer zone regulations.

**LD 694 An Act To Clarify Solid Waste Policy Relating to State-owned Disposal Facilities**

**PUBLIC 243**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAIN DILL	OTP-AM	S-220

This bill:

1. Amends the declaration of policy in the laws governing waste management to provide that the Legislature finds that the highest and best use of a state-owned solid waste facility is for those permitted special wastes that cannot be handled by waste reduction, reuse and recycling;
2. Provides that a change in the type or volume of waste accepted by a facility requires approval by the Department of Environmental Protection and a public benefit determination;
3. Amends the laws governing public benefit determinations for solid waste disposal facilities; and
4. Applies to licenses or permits pending on the effective date of the Act.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-220)**

This amendment replaces the bill. It provides that the Department of Environmental Protection may not process or act on an application for a new, modified or amended solid waste license for a solid waste disposal facility acquired by the State after January 1, 2007 until the facility has applied for and received a public benefit determination from the department. It provides that a solid waste disposal facility owned by the State before January 1, 2007 is deemed to hold a public benefit determination for the licensed disposal capacity at the facility on the effective date of the Act. In addition, for such facilities owned by the State before January 1, 2007, it authorizes the department to require an application for a modified public benefit determination if the department finds that a material change in the underlying facts or circumstances has occurred or is proposed. The amendment also clarifies that, regardless of the date of state ownership, the department may not process or act upon any application to expand a facility until the facility has applied for and received a public benefit determination.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 243 provides that the Department of Environmental Protection may not process or act on an application for a new, modified or amended solid waste license for a solid waste disposal facility acquired by the State after January 1, 2007 until the facility has applied for and received a public benefit determination from the