

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> 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

126<sup>TH</sup> 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 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 Judiciary*

to the amount that would have been awarded had statutory increases been granted in fiscal year 2003-04, fiscal year 2004-05, fiscal year 2010-11, fiscal year 2011-12 and fiscal year 2012-13. It also changes the reporting deadline for the Judicial Compensation Commission from December 1st to December 15th.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

See related provision in Public Law 2013, chapter 368, Part BB (biennial budget). Part BB directs the State Court Administrator to adjust upward the salaries of the State's chief justices, chief judge, deputy chief judge, associate justices and associate judges by 3% on July 1, 2013 and by 3% on July 1, 2014.

### **LD 726      An Act To Adopt the Uniform Parentage Act**

**ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to adopt a law that is based on the Uniform Parentage Act. In addition to any substantive changes to the uniform act that may be adopted by the Legislature, the basic numbering system, the mechanical structure and the internal organization of the law recommended by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws will be altered to conform to numbering, structure and organization of the Maine Revised Statutes.

See LD 419, Resolve, Directing the Family Law Advisory Commission To Study and Report on the Uniform Parentage Act and Other Similar Laws and Proposals, finally passed as Resolve 2013, chapter 12.

### **LD 733      An Act To Improve the Child Support Collection Process**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOHNSON C BEAULIEU	ONTP	

This bill allows the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the court to order that the Secretary of State issue a work-restricted license when a driver's license has been suspended for nonpayment of child support. It separates the determination of nonsupport from the administrative hearing on the question of noncompliance.

The bill requires that, when an obligor requests a hearing on noncompliance with an order of support, an administrative hearing officer within the Department of the Secretary of State conduct the hearing and report the decision back to the Department of Health and Human Services for issuance.

### **LD 744      An Act To Extend the Statute of Limitations on Certain Civil Professional Negligence Suits**

**PUBLIC 329**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VALENTINO	OTP-AM	S-232

## *Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

This bill extends the statute of limitations for professional negligence actions against health care providers and health care practitioners when the action is based on a sexual act or sexual contact. The bill provides that the new statute of limitations applies to all actions based on a sexual act or sexual contact occurring on or after the effective date of the Act and all actions for which the claim has not yet been barred by the previous statute of limitations.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-232)**

The bill proposes to extend the statute of limitations for professional negligence actions against certain health care providers and health care practitioners to ten years when the action is based on a sexual act or sexual contact. The amendment decreases the extension of the statute of limitations to six years and applies it to professional negligence actions against specifically psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, pastoral counselors, marriage and family therapists and clinical professional counselors. In addition, the amendment provides that the sexual act or sexual contact must have occurred during the period of time the person was a patient or client of the professional.

The amendment also repeals this extension of the statute of limitations July 1, 2017.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 329 extends to six years the statute of limitations for professional negligence actions against specific professionals when the action is based on a sexual act or sexual contact. It applies the extension of the statute of limitations to professional negligence actions against psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, pastoral counselors, marriage and family therapists and clinical professional counselors. It also provides that the sexual act or sexual contact must have occurred during the period of time the person was a patient or client of the professional. The extension of the statute of limitations is repealed July 1, 2017.

**LD 759      An Act To Hold Harmless a Municipality For Volunteer or Unpaid Labor**

**ACCEPTED  
MAJORITY  
(ONTP) REPORT**

Sponsor(s)

KNIGHT

Committee Report

ONTP  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

This bill makes a municipality immune from liability for the activity of a volunteer, unpaid employee or a person performing community service for the municipality.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-386)**

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. The amendment replaces the bill, which amends the Maine Tort Claims Act, and instead provides that a municipality is not liable for death, personal injury or property damage suffered by a juvenile or adult who is participating in a supervised work or service program, performing community service or providing restitution or providing volunteer services. The amendment does not create liability for any claim, does not waive any existing immunity and does not affect the application of the workers' compensation laws to volunteer firefighters.

This amendment was not adopted.