

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 LABOR, COMMERCE,
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

LD 976 An Act To Reform Employer-provided Benefits

**ACCEPTED
MAJORITY
(ONTP) REPORT**

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

This bill prohibits an employer from giving an employee remuneration in lieu of an offered benefit when by virtue of refusing that benefit the employee is eligible for and receives a publicly funded benefit, such as health insurance. The penalty for noncompliance is a civil violation for which a fine from \$500 to \$1,000 may be adjudged and appropriate equitable relief sought.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-328)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, adds a requirement that the employer maintain a record of which insurance plan the employee joins in place of the employer's offered insurance plan. The amendment also clarifies that only an employer that knowingly violates the law is subject to a penalty. This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill. This amendment was not adopted.

LD 977 An Act To Restore Uniformity to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code

**DIED BETWEEN
HOUSES**

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

Current law requires the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code to be enforced in a municipality that has more than 4,000 residents; a municipality with 4,000 or fewer residents that has not adopted a building code is exempt. This bill requires the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code to be enforced in all municipalities with more than 2,000 residents, beginning July 1, 2014. A municipality with 2,000 or fewer residents is exempt, but, if a building code is adopted in such a municipality, it must be the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-555)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. This amendment provides that the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code applies statewide and is the only building code that may be adopted or enforced in this State. As in the bill, a municipality of 2,000 or fewer residents is exempt from adopting or enforcing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, but if such a municipality adopts a building code, it must be the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. This amendment repeals the current law that defines a separate uniform building code and uniform energy code and removes references to those separate codes.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-556)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. This amendment provides that the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code applies statewide and is the only building code that may be adopted or enforced in this State. As in the bill, a municipality of 2,000 or fewer residents is exempt from adopting or enforcing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, but if such a municipality adopts a building code, it must be the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. This amendment allows a municipality to avoid enforcing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code if it doesn't employ a building official or if it votes to not enforce the code due to a lack

Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

of financial resources, unless the State provides sufficient funding to allow the municipality to provide for enforcement. This amendment repeals the current law that defines a separate uniform building code and uniform energy code and removes references to those separate codes.

**LD 992 An Act To Create a State-sponsored 401(k) Retirement Plan for ONTP
Participation by Private Employers**

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

This bill directs the Finance Authority of Maine to establish a qualified defined contribution retirement investment plan eligible for favorable tax treatment under Section 401(k) of the United States Internal Revenue Code to be made available to employers who wish to offer the plan as a retirement investment option to their employees.

**LD 993 Resolve, To Amend Maine Board of Pharmacy Rules Regarding ONTP
Automated Pharmacy Systems in Hospitals**

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

In 2012, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Maine Board of Pharmacy adopted a new rule governing the use of automated pharmacy systems in both retail establishments and institutional pharmacies. This resolve removes hospital pharmacies from the purview of this rule.

LD 1017 An Act Relating to Employee Leasing Company Registration PUBLIC 257

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK	OTP-AM	H-382

This bill transfers registration of employee leasing companies from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection. Current rule-making authority regarding workers' compensation insurance issued to employee leasing companies is retained by the Superintendent of Insurance. The bill amends the law to direct complaints of client companies with respect to employee leasing companies to the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-382)

This amendment provides rule-making authority to the Superintendent of Consumer Credit Protection for the purpose of administration of the provisions of law regarding employee leasing companies and specifies that rules regarding the ability of the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection to receive and respond to complaints may be adopted; these rules are designated as routine technical rules.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 257 transfers registration of employee leasing companies from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection. It amends the law to direct complaints of client companies with respect to employee leasing companies to the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection. It also provides rule-making authority to the Superintendent of Consumer Credit Protection for the purpose of administration of the provisions of law regarding employee leasing companies and