

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

May 2014

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**STAFF:**

MAUREEN S. DAWSON, PRINCIPAL ANALYST  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW  
5 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1635

**STATE OF MAINE**  
**126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND**  
**ENACTED LAWS**

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 Second Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs***

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

Current law limits MaineCare coverage or reimbursement for buprenorphine and naloxone combination drugs, also known as Suboxone, for the treatment of addiction to opioids and for methadone for the treatment of addiction to opiates, to 24 months. This bill repeals the 24-month limit.

**LD 979      An Act To Exempt the Sale of the United States Flag from the Sales Tax      ONTP**

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill exempts sales of United States flags made entirely of cloth from sales tax.

**LD 998      An Act To Provide Consistency in the Application of the Property Tax Exemption for Religious Organizations      ONTP**

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill expands the property tax exemption for property owned by religious organizations to include all real and personal property owned and occupied or used solely for its own purposes by a religious organization in connection with religious worship and removes the \$20,000 limitation on the exemption for parsonages and the \$6,000 limitation on the exemption for personal property.

**LD 1010      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Ensure Clean Water      ONTP**

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

The bill authorizes a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$50,000,000 to be used to provide funds for the Maine Clean Water Fund to assist municipalities in achieving clean water by addressing various water quality issues

***Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs***

and mandates, including, but not limited to, separate and combined sewer and storm water overflow and sewage treatment.

**LD 1011      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade Facilities and Purchase Classroom Equipment for Maine's Seven Community Colleges      ONTP**

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

The bill authorizes a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$15,000,000 to be used to provide funds to renovate and provide for new facilities and to fund a backlog of projects at the seven Maine community colleges, of which \$13,800,000 is provided for renovation and new facilities and \$1,200,000 is provided for funding a backlog of projects.

**LD 1036      An Act To Amend the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program      ONTP**

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill amends the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program to allow the Finance Authority of Maine to provide debt relief directly to the applicant or to make loan repayments to the lender. This bill also increases the number of applicants who may be eligible for loan relief from three applicants to 40 applicants per year, decreases the maximum amount of debt relief to \$1,000 and provides an ongoing appropriation of \$20,000 per year.

**LD 1043      An Act To Improve the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program      PUBLIC 605**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY CUSHING	OTP-AM	H-851

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

Part A provides funds in the amount of \$10,000,000 to be used to provide funds for state, regional and local financial intermediaries to make flexible loans to and investments in small businesses and real estate projects to create jobs.

Part B amends the laws regarding the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program of the Finance Authority of Maine to include revitalization of downtowns and building stronger communities and a sustainable economy as purposes of the program. It clarifies that a corporation under the program may use revenue from