

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH 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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MAUREEN S. DAWSON, PRINCIPAL ANALYST
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW
5 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1635

STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
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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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 126th 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

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

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commitment fees and interest to cover its operating costs, including loan fund management, increases the dollar amount of the maximum loan available to a borrower and adjusts other financing terms. It also adds businesses engaged in commercial and mixed-use real estate and community facilities and businesses engaged in serving tourists to the list of businesses that are eligible for financial assistance under the program. Part B takes effect only if the General Fund bond issue proposed in Part A is approved by the voters of the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-851)

This amendment strikes the bill and replaces it with changes to the laws regarding the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program of the Finance Authority of Maine. It adds revitalization of downtowns and building stronger communities and a sustainable economy as purposes of the program. It clarifies that a lending corporation under the program may use revenue from commitment fees and interest to cover its operating costs, including loan fund management, increases the dollar amount of the maximum loan available to a borrower, allows a lending corporation to serve more than one region and adjusts other financing terms. It adds businesses engaged in commercial and mixed-use real estate and community facilities, businesses engaged in serving tourists and value-added natural resource enterprises to the list of businesses that are eligible for financial assistance under the program. It changes the program to allow participation by companies with 100 or fewer employees, instead of 50 or fewer, and by companies with annual sales of up to \$10,000,000, instead of \$5,000,000 or less. It also amends the total loan amount by increasing the cap from \$250,000 to \$350,000 for corporations and from \$100,000 to \$350,000 for quality child care projects. The amendment also adds a contingent effective date, under which the provisions of the Act do not take effect until the effective date of an act of the Legislature that appropriates or allocates a sum of at least \$1,000,000 to the Finance Authority of Maine for the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program and that specifies that the funds are appropriated or allocated for the purposes of this Act.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 605 makes the following changes to the laws regarding the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program of the Finance Authority of Maine:

1. It adds revitalization of downtowns and building stronger communities and a sustainable economy as purposes of the program;
2. It clarifies that a lending corporation under the program may use revenue from commitment fees and interest to cover its operating costs, including loan fund management, increases the dollar amount of the maximum loan available to a borrower, allows a lending corporation to serve more than one region and adjusts other financing terms;
3. It adds businesses engaged in commercial and mixed-use real estate and community facilities, businesses engaged in serving tourists and value-added natural resource enterprises to the list of businesses that are eligible for financial assistance under the program;
4. It changes the program to allow participation by companies with 100 or fewer employees, instead of 50 or fewer, and by companies with annual sales of up to \$10,000,000, instead of \$5,000,000 or less; and
5. It amends the total loan amount by increasing the cap from \$250,000 to \$350,000 for corporations and from \$100,000 to \$350,000 for quality child care projects.

Public Law 2013, chapter 605 does not take effect until the effective date of an act of the Legislature that appropriates or allocates a sum of at least \$1,000,000 to the Finance Authority of Maine for the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program and that specifies that the funds are appropriated or allocated for the purposes of this Act.