

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

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish a process for the authority and municipal housing authorities to use to verify the condition of dwelling units rented to low-income tenants in order to provide documentation for the proper retention or return of security deposits.

LD 1087 An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation and Short-term Disability Insurance in Maine ONTP

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

This bill provides that an injured worker is eligible for workers' compensation benefits for a work-related injury regardless of whether the injury is of a cumulative or gradual nature. The bill also prohibits an insurer that issues group short-term disability insurance on or after January 1, 2014 from refusing to provide coverage on the basis of a preexisting condition or from imposing any exclusion of coverage based on a preexisting condition.

LD 1103 An Act To Encourage Development in the Logging Industry VETO SUSTAINED

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T STANLEY	OTP-AM ONTP	S-249 S-348 HILL

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to encourage development in the logging industry by enacting a variety of measures, which may include:

1. Changes to the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law; and
2. Changes to certain labor laws, including requiring a landowner to notify the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forestry if forest land is harvested using bonded labor under the federal H2 bonded labor program under 20 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 655.200 et seq.

This proposal might provide that, if a landowner or a harvester employed by or under contract to the landowner uses bonded labor under the federal H2 bonded labor program or the landowner fails to provide the required notification, the land would be suspended from the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law for the year in which bonded labor is used and a penalty would be assessed under the commercial forestry excise tax to compensate the State for the General Fund contribution to the cost of forest fire protection activities.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-249)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, requires a landowner to notify the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forestry if forest land is harvested using bonded labor under the federal H2 bonded labor program. If a landowner or a harvester employed by or under contract to the landowner uses bonded labor under the federal H2 bonded labor program or the landowner fails to provide the required notification, the land must be suspended from the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law for the year in which bonded labor is used and a penalty must be assessed under the commercial forestry excise tax to compensate the State for the General Fund contribution to the cost of forest fire protection activities.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-348)

This amendment adds a mandate preamble.