

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 TAXATION

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 Taxation

This amendment:

1. Removes the changes proposed by Committee Amendment "A" to the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption and the Circuitbreaker Program;
2. Changes the effective date of the tax equalization assessment to apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013;
3. Applies the revenue generated by the tax equalization assessment to State-municipal revenue sharing for fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15; and
4. Authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature that increases the benefit under the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption and any other program that benefits Maine residents for property taxes imposed on their homesteads.

This amendment was adopted in the House, but was not adopted in the Senate.

LD 1120 An Act To Improve Maine's Tax Laws

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)

GOODE
HASKELL

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to improve the tax laws by:

1. Amending the law to reduce the use of so-called off-shore tax havens, thus reducing the loss of revenue to the State; and
2. Establishing a task force to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the biennial report of tax expenditures prepared by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 10. The task force shall identify any tax expenditures that may be reduced or eliminated with the goal of achieving a targeted savings of \$30,000,000 in fiscal year 2014-15.

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).

LD 1124 An Act To Provide Income Tax Relief

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

STUCKEY
ALFOND

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill reforms the Maine income tax by establishing a rate structure that includes 6 income tax bracket thresholds with top marginal tax rates from 0% to 10%. The income thresholds for each rate are calculated by the State Tax Assessor every 5 years to maintain the same level of progressivity of the tax by maintaining the same percentage of taxpayers in each top marginal rate category.