

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**

July 2013

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**STAFF:**

ALYSON MAYO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

# STATE OF MAINE

126<sup>TH</sup> 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 126<sup>th</sup> 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 126<sup>th</sup> 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 State and Local Government**

**LD 1177      An Act To Implement the Recommendations from the Discontinued and Abandoned Roads Stakeholder Group      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO KESCHL		

This bill implements the recommendations of the stakeholder group established by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Resolve 2011, chapter 120 to review discontinued and abandoned roads. This bill provides that if a municipality decides to retain a public easement after the municipality discontinues a town way, the municipality must vote in the affirmative to retain the public easement and that if the municipality fails to maintain the public easement for two years, the public easement is discontinued and the public's interest in the easement is abolished. The bill requires that a municipality give an easement to a property owner that requires access to the property owner's property if the municipality discontinues a town way. Current law allows a municipality to discontinue a town way by giving notice to all abutting property owners and the municipal planning board and filing an order of discontinuance with the municipal clerk. The bill, beginning on January 1, 2016, requires that a municipality must vote in order to discontinue a town way. The bill also requires that by January 1, 2016 every municipality prepare a list of all municipal town ways that the municipality intends to keep in repair with public funds pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 304 and to publish the list on its publicly accessible website. If a town way has not been included on the list by January 1, 2016, the town way is discontinued with no public easement and the abutters of the town way have 2 years to file a claim pursuant to Title 23, section 3027-A, subsection 2 against the municipality.

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 1220      RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives To Be Maine Natives      LEAVE TO WITHDRAW**

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

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide that a person may not be President of the Senate or Speaker of the House of Representatives unless that person was born in Maine.

**LD 1254      An Act To Increase Consumption of Maine Foods in All State Institutions      HELD BY GOVERNOR**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HICKMAN LACHOWICZ	OTP-AM OTP-AM	H-510 S-355 HILL

Current law requires state and school purchasers to buy meat, fish, dairy products, excluding milk and eggs, and species of fruits and fresh vegetables directly from Maine food producers or from food brokers. This bill establishes a minimum percentage of Maine foodstuffs that must be purchased, requiring at least 15% for the 10 years beginning January 1, 2014, at least 25% for the next 10 years and at least 35% beginning in 2034.

*Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-510)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and changes the implementation dates and minimum percentages regarding Maine foodstuffs that state and school purchasers must purchase directly from Maine food producers or food brokers. It changes the implementation schedule for Maine foodstuffs from at least 15% for the 10 years beginning January 1, 2014, at least 25% for the next 10 years and at least 35% beginning in 2034 to at least 15% by December 31, 2020, 20% by December 31, 2024, 25% by December 31, 2034 and 35% by December 31, 2035. The amendment excepts from the requirements school purchasers at schools participating in the National School Lunch Program.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-511)**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and changes the implementation dates and minimum percentages regarding Maine foodstuffs that state and school purchasers must purchase directly from Maine food producers or food brokers. It changes the implementation schedule for Maine foodstuffs from at least 15% for the 10 years beginning January 1, 2014, at least 25% for the next 10 years and at least 35% beginning in 2034 to at least 15% by December 31, 2020, 20% by December 31, 2024, 25% by December 31, 2034 and 35% by December 31, 2035. The amendment also removes from current law the exclusion of milk and eggs from foodstuffs that must be purchased by a state or school purchaser and the exclusion of milk and eggs from products for which quality standards must be established. The amendment excepts from the requirements school purchasers at schools participating in the National School Lunch Program.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-355)**

This amendment adds a mandate preamble.

**LD 1273      An Act Pertaining to the Closing of Municipal Roads for Community Use      ONTP**

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

This bill allows a municipality to designate a town way or public easement be held for public purposes other than highway purposes, including recreational purposes, by an affirmative vote of the legislative body of the municipality within which the town way or public easement lies.

**LD 1279      RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State, Attorney General and Treasurer of State      ACCEPTED MINORITY (ONTP) REPORT**

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

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that provides for direct popular election beginning in 2014 of the Secretary of State and the Treasurer of State biennially and for direct popular election of the Attorney General every four years in the manner currently provided for Senators and Representatives.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-139)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and incorporates a fiscal note.