

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

STAFF:

NATALIE HAYNES, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
HENRY FOUTS, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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STATE OF MAINE

126TH 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 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

ribbon commission to develop an appropriate sustainable mechanism for financing transportation infrastructure; and promote the benefits of Internet connectivity to businesses and individuals to increase the subscription rate and provide a level of certainty for private investment; and

7. Support the innovation of Maine's economy to capitalize on new markets and promote economic growth. This goal would be accomplished by:

A. Making changes to funding, including:

- (1) Supporting public investment in research and development that leverages private funds to bring total spending to 3% of Maine's gross domestic product;
- (2) Updating the existing seed capital regime to encourage more private investment; and
- (3) Supporting commercialization of innovations; and

B. Changing information technology capacity and education by:

- (1) Building information technology capacity through public-private-nonprofit partnerships;
- (2) Teaching innovation and entrepreneurship statewide by:
 - (a) Providing training to 10,000 small businesses over the next 8 years through existing organizations; and
 - (b) Including entrepreneurship in kindergarten to grade 12 curricula statewide;
- (3) Continuing support of the Maine Technology Institute's Cluster Initiative Program and the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board;
- (4) Increasing the University of Maine System's research and development in order to leverage funding and create marketable ideas, wealth and jobs;
- (5) Requiring the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy to develop the entrepreneurial skills of students and faculty and support the transfer of knowledge and technology between the systems and the academy; and
- (6) Requiring the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy to bring research and development knowledge directly to businesses through relationships and public-private partnerships.

In order to further the implementation of the innovation and entrepreneurship goal, this bill would immediately ensure that all programs supporting innovation are working together and that the most meaningful evaluation metrics are being utilized; and update existing seed capital legislation to enable crowd-funding of innovation.

LD 1276 **An Act Regarding Research and Development in Maine**

PUBLIC 225

Sponsor(s)
CUSHING
FREDETTE

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-157

Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to identify and establish a stable funding source to support and encourage research and development in the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-157)

This amendment replaces the bill, which was a concept draft. It increases the amount that the Maine Technology Institute may expend for management and related operating costs of the institute from 7% to 10% in order to allow for investments that increase the institute's effectiveness and the rate of commercialization of its portfolio companies. In addition, the amendment adds the Maine Maritime Academy to the list of campuses that may compete for research and development funding through the small campus initiative administered by the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 225 increases the amount that the Maine Technology Institute may expend for management and related operating costs of the institute from 7% to 10% in order to allow for investments that increase the institute's effectiveness and the rate of commercialization of its portfolio companies. In addition, the law adds the Maine Maritime Academy to the list of campuses that may compete for research and development funding through the small campus initiative, which is administered by the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System.

LD 1281	Resolve, Directing the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation To Conduct a Sunrise Review Regarding the Proposal To License Recreational Therapists	VETO SUSTAINED
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LACHOWICZ CASSIDY	OTP-AM ONTP	S-117

This bill establishes a requirement for licensure of recreational therapists and a board to oversee the process of licensure and the conduct of licensees.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-117)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to conduct an independent assessment pursuant to the sunrise review requirements in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 1-A, subchapter 2 of the proposal to license recreational therapists. It requires the commissioner to submit a report no later than February 28, 2014 with any necessary legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development. It authorizes the committee to submit a bill on the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

LD 1288	An Act Regarding Impairment of Health of a Correctional Employee Caused by Infectious Disease	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DECHANT	ONTP	

This bill provides that, with respect to disability retirement benefits under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System, a condition of impairment of health caused by an infectious disease resulting in total or partial disability or death of an employee of a correctional facility must, if that employee successfully passed a physical examination on entry into employment with the correctional facility or subsequently successfully passed a physical examination that