

# 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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# STATE OF MAINE

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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**

This bill amends the procedure that a municipality must follow to secede from a county. Current law requires that, upon the receipt of a petition to secede signed by 10% of the number of voters in the municipality who voted at the last gubernatorial election, the municipal officers shall hold a public hearing and, if the voters approve, the municipality must seek approval from the Legislature to secede. This bill requires that the municipality receive the approval from the Legislature before the municipal officers hold a referendum to have the voters approve the secession.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-197)**

This amendment clarifies that legislative approval is needed for a municipality to hold a vote on the proposed secession from a county, not for the proposed secession itself, as stated in the bill.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 210 amends the procedure that a municipality must follow to secede from a county.

Public Law 2013, chapter 210 provides that legislative approval is needed for a municipality to hold a vote on the proposed secession from a county. Previously the procedure required that, upon the receipt of a petition to secede signed by 10% of the number of voters in the municipality who voted at the last gubernatorial election, the municipal officers shall hold a public hearing and, if the voters approve, the municipality must seek approval from the Legislature to secede.

Public Law 2013, chapter 210 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 5, 2013.

**LD 1454      RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine      DIED BETWEEN  
To Establish a Unicameral Legislature      HOUSES**

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

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to abolish the Senate and the House of Representatives and to replace them with a unicameral Legislature made up of 151 members, referred to as Senators, who serve 4-year terms beginning in 2018. This reduction requires a reapportionment plan by the Legislature that convenes in 2015 so that the Legislature elected in November 2018 is unicameral.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-234)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, incorporates a fiscal note.

**LD 1459      Resolve, Directing the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board      ONTP  
To Convene a Stakeholder Group To Study the Feasibility of Using  
Maine's GeoLibrary GeoPortal for a Pilot Project That Involves  
Geographic Information Systems Trail Mapping**

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

This resolve directs the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board to convene a stakeholder group to study the feasibility of using Maine's GeoLibrary GeoPortal for a pilot project that involves geographic information