

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

May 2014

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill authorizes a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$10,000,000 to be used to provide matching funds for the seven Maine community colleges in order to improve facilities, enhance education grant-issuing foundations and expand academic bridge programs after the Maine community colleges raise \$2,500,000 in private or in-kind donations.

LD 1424 An Act To Increase Mileage Reimbursement and Compensation for Jurors ONTP

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill changes the mileage rate paid to jurors and witnesses from 15¢ per mile and 22¢ per mile, respectively, to the rate paid by the State for travel by employees of the State for the business of the State, which is currently 44¢ per mile. This bill also increases the daily rate paid to jurors and witnesses from \$10 to \$20.

LD 1445 An Act To Facilitate Children's Testimony ONTP

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill allows a court, by motion from the State, to allow the testimony of a child who is ten years of age or younger and the alleged victim of a sexual assault or sexual exploitation outside of the presence of the defendant if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the protection of the judicial process or the well-being of the child outweighs the constitutional rights of the defendant to confront the defendant's accuser. This bill requires that testimony by a child victim outside the presence of the defendant must be televised by live, two-way closed-circuit television with adequate provisions, including that the court, jury and defendant can hear and observe the child. This bill does not allow testimony of a child outside of the presence of the defendant if the defendant is an attorney pro se or if a positive identification of the defendant by the child is required.

LD 1455 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Ensure Clean Water and Safe Communities PUBLIC 589

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODALL BERRY	OTP-AM	S-558

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill authorizes a bond issue in the amount of \$50,000,000 in order to make cost-effective investments in natural and built infrastructure to reduce threats to the State's water resources and provide a host of benefits for communities across Maine, including ensuring an abundant and high-quality drinking water supply, allowing communities to more effectively prepare for storms and flood events, conserving habitat for recreational fisheries, waterfowl and aquatic and wildlife species and strengthening the State's long-term economic base and competitive advantage. The bill establishes the Water Resources Commission and the Fund To Ensure Clean Water and Safe Communities. The commission is charged with assessing the State's water resource infrastructure needs and with allocating funds for resource conservation and development projects.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-558)

This amendment authorizes a bond issue in the amount of \$10,000,000 in order to make cost-effective investments in natural and built infrastructure to encourage improvements to the State's water resources and provide a host of benefits for communities across Maine, including ensuring an abundant and high-quality drinking water supply, restoring wetlands and strengthening the State's long-term economic base and competitive advantage.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 589 authorizes a bond issue in the amount of \$10,000,000 in order to make cost-effective investments in natural and built infrastructure to encourage improvements to the State's water resources and provide a host of benefits for communities across Maine, including ensuring an abundant and high-quality drinking water supply, restoring wetlands and strengthening the State's long-term economic base and competitive advantage.

The bond issue is subject to voter approval at a statewide election to be held in November 2014.

LD 1461 An Act To Require the State To Divest Itself of Assets Invested in the ONTP Fossil Fuel Industry

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill provides that the State Treasurer and the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System may not invest assets within in the fossil fuel industry and requires divestment of such existing assets by January 1, 2018.

LD 1468 Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Study the Veto Sustained Potential Benefits and Barriers Involved in Making Renewable Thermal Technologies Eligible for Qualification in Maine's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T HOBBINS	REF TO EUT	S-510 JACKSON T

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. It was committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.