

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 STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**

July 2013

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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 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 To Establish a Unicameral Legislature

**DIED BETWEEN
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 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

ONTP

<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

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

systems trail mapping. The resolve requires the board to report to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by January 1, 2014.

LD 1516 An Act To Allow Certain Military Personnel To Administer Oaths and Perform the Duties of a Notary Public PUBLIC 178

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

This bill provides that commissioned and warrant officers of the state military forces may administer oaths for the purpose of the administration of military justice and for other purposes of military administration. It also provides that judge advocates and paralegals serving in the state military forces have the powers of a notary public in the performance of all notarial acts to be executed for a member of the state military forces or United States Armed Forces or the spouse of a member of the state military forces or United States Armed Forces.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 178 provides that commissioned and warrant officers of the state military forces may administer oaths for the purpose of the administration of military justice and for other purposes of military administration. It also provides that judge advocates and paralegals serving in the state military forces have the powers of a notary public in the performance of all notarial acts to be executed for a member of the state military forces or United States Armed Forces or the spouse of a member of the state military forces or United States Armed Forces.

LD 1539 Resolve, To Restore the Integrity of the State Pay System ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAIN GILBERT	ONTP	

This resolve requires that for one year, beginning July 1, 2013, state employees be awarded one salary step increase and any longevity pay those employees are entitled to under a collective bargaining agreement in effect or, if a collective bargaining agreement is not in effect, under the most recently expired collective bargaining agreement.

LD 1541 An Act To Ensure That Legislators Share the Sacrifice with Civil Servants in the Event of a State Government Shutdown CARRIED OVER

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

This bill requires the salary of all Legislators to be reduced by an amount that is proportional to the length of a shutdown that occurs due to a biennial budget's not being enacted into law by July 1st of an odd-numbered year.

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).