

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 TRANSPORTATION

July 2013

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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 Transportation

Committee on Transportation no later than December 4, 2013.

LD 1465 An Act To Increase Accountability and Efficiency of Independent Entities Involved in Separate Aspects of the State's Transportation Systems ONTP

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

This bill, which is a concept draft, proposes to consolidate under one agency those independent agencies and quasi-governmental agencies that are established under state law and that are involved in or manage, control or oversee separate aspects of the State's transportation systems, including but not limited to the Maine Turnpike Authority, the Maine Port Authority, the Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Bridge Authority and the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority. The consolidation of the separate entities and the transportation assets they oversee and manage under one comprehensive agency will ensure accountability and efficiency and will facilitate the economic development and carrying out of a cohesive state transportation policy.

**LD 1467 Resolve, To Establish Demonstration Projects To Promote Economic Development in the Forest Products Industry RESOLVE 64
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T THERIAULT	OTP-AM	S-208

This resolve requires the Commissioner of Transportation to establish a demonstration project in the Town of Ashland for the purpose of demonstrating cost-effective ways of promoting economic development in the forest products industry by facilitating the transportation of forest product-related materials, including logs and wood biomass, from product-harvesting sites to processing and transportation facilities by increasing the gross vehicle weights permitted on a demonstration transportation route connecting forest product harvesting sites with potential processing facilities. The demonstration project requires consideration of safety issues and other effects and input from the Town of Ashland. The commissioner is required to report on the demonstration project to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by January 15, 2015.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-208)

This amendment, which strikes and replaces the resolve, authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to establish 2 demonstration projects in Aroostook County that allow certain commercial vehicles carrying logs and wood biomass at gross vehicle weights exceeding those authorized by law to travel less than 2 miles from a private logging road system to proposed wood-processing facilities in the towns of Ashland and Masardis.

The demonstration projects require the chief engineer of the Department of Transportation to find that the trucks can be operated safely and the infrastructure can be improved and maintained to withstand the increased weight of the trucks. The demonstration projects also require that the municipal officers of the affected towns support the project and at least 50% of the cost of infrastructure improvements be provided by the relevant mill owner, other private entities or a public source other than the Department of Transportation. The commissioner is required to report on the demonstration projects to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters upon request of the committee.

The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the resolve.

Enacted Law Summary

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Resolve 2013, chapter 64 authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to establish two demonstration projects in Aroostook County that allow certain commercial vehicles carrying logs and wood biomass at gross vehicle weights exceeding those authorized by law to travel less than two miles from a private logging road system to proposed wood-processing facilities in the towns of Ashland and Masardis.

The demonstration projects require the chief engineer of the Department of Transportation to find that the trucks can be operated safely and the infrastructure can be improved and maintained to withstand the increased weight of the trucks. The demonstration projects also require that the municipal officers of the affected towns support the project and at least 50% of the cost of infrastructure improvements be provided by the relevant mill owner, other private entities or a public source other than the Department of Transportation. The commissioner is required to report on the demonstration projects to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters upon request of the committee.

Resolve 2013, chapter 64 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 22, 2013.

**LD 1480 An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the
Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds,
and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper
Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30,
2014 and June 30, 2015**

**PUBLIC 354
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THERIAULT COLLINS	OTP-AM	H-536

PART A

This Part makes allocations of funds for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

PART B

This Part provides funding for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C

This Part repeals the transit bonus payment program administered by the Department of Transportation.

PART D

This Part changes the useful life requirement related to projects receiving grants or loans from the TransCap Trust Fund from 10 years to 5 years.

PART E

This Part continues for 2 years the freeze on merit increases and denies the award of longevity pay to employees in the various departments and agencies within the executive branch, including the constitutional officers and the Department of Audit, during the 2014-2015 biennium. This Part also requires the State Budget Officer to calculate the amount of savings in Part A that applies against each Highway Fund account for all departments and agencies from savings associated with eliminating merit pay and longevity pay and to transfer the amounts by financial order upon the approval of the Governor.

PART F