

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 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 Fossil Fuel Industry ONTP

<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 Potential Benefits and Barriers Involved in Making Renewable Thermal Technologies Eligible for Qualification in Maine's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Veto Sustained

<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.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

This bill establishes the High-efficiency Biomass Pellet Boiler Rebate Program, administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust, to give rebates to owners or occupants of buildings who install high-efficiency wood pellet boilers or heating systems in the buildings. The rebates are paid from the Home Heating Conversion Fund, administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust, which also provides funds to replace outdoor wood boilers that do not meet air quality standards as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Home Heating Conversion Fund is funded by \$20,000,000 in revenue bonds issued by the Efficiency Maine Trust and paid for by the sale of sustainably harvested timber from public reserved lands.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-510)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to study the potential benefits and barriers involved in making renewable thermal technologies eligible for qualification in the State's renewable energy portfolio standard. In conducting this study, the commission is directed to examine and consider the renewable energy portfolio standards of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maryland.

LD 1473 An Act To Create a Public Option Pension System

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

RUSSELL

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

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

This bill establishes the Maine Secure Choice Retirement Savings Trust within the Department of Labor, which:

1. Requires eligible employers to offer a payroll deduction retirement savings arrangement so that eligible employees can contribute a portion of their salary or wages to a retirement savings program account in the Maine Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program, also created by the bill;
2. Requires an eligible employee to participate in the Maine Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program, unless the employee specifically opts out of the program. The Bureau of Labor Standards is required to provide forms to employers for employees to opt out of the program;
3. Establishes the seven-member Maine Secure Choice Retirement Savings Investment Board to administer the trust;
4. Specifies risk management and investment policies that the board must follow in administering the program.;
5. Requires a specific percentage of the annual salary or wages of an eligible employee participating in the program to be deposited in the trust, which is divided into a program fund and an administrative fund, and authorizes the board to establish a gain and loss revenue account within the program fund;
6. Requires the board to establish a retirement investment clearinghouse on the Internet and a vendor registration process through which information about employer-sponsored retirement plans and payroll deduction individual retirement accounts and annuities offered by private sector providers is available for consideration by eligible employers contingent upon sufficient interest and funding by vendors;
7. Requires the Bureau of Labor Standards to assess a penalty on an eligible employer who fails to make the program available to eligible employees;
8. Provides that the State has no liability for the payment of benefits under the program;