

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

May 2014

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> 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 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 Second Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> 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.

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person who has methadone or its metabolite in their system.

Resolve 2013, chapter 93 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective March 18, 2014.

### **LD 1611     An Act Concerning Learner's Permits**

**PUBLIC 493**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PEOPLES	OTP-AM	H-653

This bill clarifies that the Secretary of State is the only entity allowed to collect and process applications and fees for a learner's permit and the only entity that can administer any required examination for a learner's permit.

#### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-653)**

This amendment replaces the bill and removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause. It creates a new learner's permit issuance subsection in law that identifies the Secretary of State as the only entity allowed to collect learner's permit fees and application materials, administer an examination for a learner's permit and issue a learner's permit. This amendment contains transition language that allows the Secretary of State or an individual affiliated with an approved driver education course to collect fees and application materials until October 1, 2014 and to administer exams until January 1, 2015.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 493 requires all fees and any application materials for a learner's permit are to be collected only by the Secretary of State. This law also limits the administration of any required examination for a learner's permit to the Secretary of State. Lastly, this law authorizes only the Secretary of State to issue a learner's permit.

This law allows the Secretary of State to authorize an individual affiliated with an approved driver education course to collect fees or application materials for a learner's permit until October 1, 2014 and to administer any required examination for a learner's permit until January 1, 2015.

### **LD 1645     An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws**

**PUBLIC 496**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAZUREK THERIAULT	OTP-AM	S-411

This bill makes the following changes to the motor vehicle laws.

1. It changes the definition of "bus" to be consistent with federal law.
2. It repeals the requirement that a vehicle registrant return that registrant's registration certificate to the Secretary of State upon the transfer of ownership of the vehicle.
3. It standardizes the language for vanity plates for environmental registration plates, sportsman registration plates, Purple Heart motorcycle registration plates and veterans' registration plates to be the same as other vanity plates.
4. It restructures the law relative to the issuance of disability plates and placards and provides that disability plates and placards may be issued for up to six years.

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5. It clarifies that the exemption from the requirement to establish legal presence when issuing a driver's license applies to certain citizens and legal permanent residents applying for the renewal of a driver's license.
6. It corrects an inconsistency in the laws governing the number of practice hours a person under 21 years of age must complete before applying for a driver's license.
7. It clarifies that the exemption from the requirement to establish legal presence when issuing a nondriver identification card applies to certain citizens and legal permanent residents applying for the renewal of a nondriver identification card.
8. It provides that the laws governing abandoned vehicles apply to vehicles left at a storage facility.
9. It allows for a person to be scheduled for the required road test after that person's juvenile provisional license is restored after a suspension instead of making it a requirement of restoration. All other restoration requirements must be met, and if the examination is not successfully completed within 90 days after restoration, an additional suspension for noncompliance will be imposed.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-411)**

This amendment removes from the laws governing registration exemptions for various types of tractors and log skidders the requirement that the equipment be operated by the owner of the farm, the woodlot or the equipment in order to qualify for the exemption. This amendment extends the exemption from the prohibition against operating a farm tractor with a revoked or suspended license that currently exists for farm tractor operation to include log skidder and converted logging tractor operation. This amendment repeals the requirement that car dealers provide notices of sale or disposition to the Secretary of State. Lastly, this amendment removes those provisions in the bill that clarify the exemption from the requirements to establish legal presence when reissuing a nondriver identification card or driver's license.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 496 makes the following changes to the motor vehicle laws.

1. It changes the definition of "bus" to be consistent with federal law.
2. It repeals the requirement that a vehicle registrant return that registrant's registration certificate to the Secretary of State upon the transfer of ownership of the vehicle.
3. It standardizes the language for vanity plates for environmental registration plates, sportsman registration plates, Purple Heart motorcycle registration plates and veterans registration plates to be the same as other vanity plates.
4. It removes from the laws governing registration exemptions for various types of tractors and log skidders, the requirement that the equipment be operated by the owner of the farm, the woodlot or the equipment in order to qualify for the exemption.
5. It extends the exemption from the prohibition against operating a farm tractor with a revoked or suspended license that currently exists for farm tractor operation to include log skidder and converted logging tractor operation.
6. It restructures the law relative to the issuance of disability plates and placards and provides that disability plates and placards may be issued for up to six years.
7. It repeals the requirement that car dealers provide notices of sale or disposition to the Secretary of State.

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- 8. It corrects an inconsistency in the laws governing the number of practice hours a person under 21 years of age must complete before applying for a driver's license.
- 9. It provides that the laws governing abandoned vehicles apply to vehicles left at a storage facility.
- 10. It allows for a person to be scheduled for the required road test after that person's juvenile provisional license is restored after a suspension instead of making it a requirement of restoration. All other restoration requirements must be met, and if the examination is not successfully completed within 90 days after restoration, an additional suspension for noncompliance will be imposed.

**LD 1692     An Act To Ensure That Local Businesses Are Notified of Construction Projects     ONTP**

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

This bill requires the Department of Transportation, municipalities, or quasi-municipal corporations or districts to notify businesses with on-site customers that are located in the vicinity of a construction project, in order for the business to be able to prepare customers for potential traffic disruptions. Notification is required to be via letter, telephone, e-mail or in person. In addition, the bill requires that the business is afforded the opportunity to identify and comment on concerns during the planning phase of the project.

**LD 1708     An Act To Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2015     P & S 22**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	S-410

This bill makes allocations from gross revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the payment of the authority's operating expenses for the calendar year ending December 31, 2015 in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-410)**

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 22 makes allocations from gross revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the payment of the authority's operating expenses for the calendar year ending December 31, 2015 in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6.

**LD 1721     An Act To Make Changes to and Clarify Maine Traveler Information Services Laws     PUBLIC 529**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THERIAULT COLLINS	OTP-AM	H-716