

# 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 LABOR, COMMERCE,  
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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.

# Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

## Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 473 conforms laws regarding the enforcement of workplace safety by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards to federal law, making the bureau eligible for federal funds. Chapter 473 replaces a section of law (26 MRSA §569) allowing safety standards from certain other state agencies to supersede the standards of the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards with a provision establishing that the Department's standards will control if there is a conflict with the occupational safety and health standards of any other state agency.

**LD 1648**      **An Act To Protect Maine Consumers from Abusive and Deceptive Debt Collection Practices**      **ONTP**

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

This bill amends the Maine Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to prohibit a debt collector from collecting or attempting to collect a debt from a consumer after the statute of limitations has run on that debt unless the debt collector informs the consumer that the debt cannot be pursued through civil litigation. This bill also requires a debt collector to provide to a consumer, upon the written request of the consumer, verification of the debt or a copy of the judgment against the consumer.

**LD 1650**      **An Act To Create a Program To Provide Training for Unemployed Workers**      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T HERBIG	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill would create a program to provide voluntary workplace training to certain eligible unemployment insurance beneficiaries. The bill would establish criteria to identify eligible participants and eligible employers and would ensure that those participants continue to receive benefits while participating in the program.

**LD 1658**      **An Act To Expand and Improve Employment Opportunities in the State**      **ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to expand and improve the Maine Apprenticeship Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 3202 by expanding and improving outreach programs to recruit new employers and educate employers regarding apprenticeship, the occupations that are eligible for apprenticeship and how to participate in or establish an apprenticeship program. It also proposes to expand and improve outreach programs to educate providers of services for unemployed workers, new workers, including recent high school graduates, workers returning to the workforce and veterans regarding apprenticeship and to educate high school students regarding