

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 LABOR, COMMERCE,
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

preapprenticeship opportunities.

It proposes to expand the State's support for laid-off workers by ensuring adequate staffing in the Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Services.

It also proposes to establish a stakeholder group to examine best practices regarding layoff aversion and to propose a comprehensive strategy to prevent layoffs. The stakeholder group would include representatives of labor, business, service providers, laid-off workers and government agencies and would examine and report on subjects including, but not limited to:

1. Best practices from other states with programs to prevent layoffs;
2. Early warning networks that identify and monitor firms, industries and communities that may be vulnerable to mass layoffs or business closures;
3. Strategies for early economic development assistance, including ways to efficiently match firms in or near distress with economic development agencies that provide grants, loans or technical assistance such as workforce training, product development or development of new assembly or production processes;
4. Buy-out options, including competitor buyout and employee buyout, and a review of existing law relating to buy-out options to determine whether changes should be made to facilitate buyouts and prevent layoffs;
5. Strategies to strengthen sectors of the economy through cooperation between stakeholders in a specific industry in areas such as workforce development; and
6. Alternatives to layoffs, including work sharing, worker training, modernization and equipment upgrades, financial restructuring, succession plans and conversion to new products.

LD 1659 An Act To Amend the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BOYLE FARNSWORTH	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This bill amends the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act by prohibiting a person from posting online reviews that disparage or praise goods, services or a business if that person is paid or contracted to disparage or praise the goods, services or business and by prohibiting a person from paying for such reviews.

LD 1666 An Act To Simplify the Audit Procedures of the Maine Rural Development Authority

PUBLIC 465

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CUSHING HERBIG	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-388
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This bill allows the Maine Rural Development Authority to submit its annual audit as part of its administering agency's annual audit.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-388)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.