

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
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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

This amendment of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development amends the bill by adding an appropriations and allocations section, which includes allocation of funds for the costs associated with adding ten Customer Representative Specialist - Benefits positions, ten Claims Adjudicator positions and four Hearings Examiner positions to address understaffing in areas of claims processing, adjudication and appeals.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 511 authorizes the use of \$17,500,000 of the funds in the Unemployment Trust Fund, requiring that all of the 2002 Reed Act funds be used first before using any of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds to meet the \$17,500,000 allocation. The funds will be used to maintain and operate the State's unemployment and employment programs, including paying the administrative costs required to administer the unemployment insurance program, adding 24 new positions to address understaffing in areas of claims processing, adjudication and appeals, delivering employment assistance services through the Department of Labor's career center system and providing labor market information program services for Maine workers and employers.

Public Law 2013, chapter 511 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 3, 2014.

LD 1832

An Act To Increase Employment Opportunities for Veterans

PUBLIC 576

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE LONGSTAFF	OTP-AM	S-477 S-532 HILL

This bill allows a private employer to have a veteran preference employment policy. The policy must be in writing and must be applied uniformly to employment decisions regarding hiring, promotion or retention during a reduction in workforce.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-477)

This amendment amends the bill to include in the definition of "veteran," a person who has served in the national guard of any state or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section to provide funding for a Labor and Safety Inspector position to provide oversight and enforcement of the veteran preference employment policy.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-532)

This amendment removes the General Fund appropriation for a Labor and Safety Inspector position.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 576 allows a private employer to have a veteran preference employment policy. The policy must be in writing and must be applied uniformly to employment decisions regarding hiring, promotion or retention during a reduction in workforce.