

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

August 2015

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and 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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>
<i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i>	<i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i>
<i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i>	<i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>
<i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i>	<i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted private & special law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted public law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of finally passed resolve</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is October 15, 2015. 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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

LD 4

An Act To Promote Industrial Hemp

**PUBLIC 202
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANDERSON HAMPER	OTP-AM	H-41

This bill removes the requirements that an applicant for an initial license to grow industrial hemp for commercial purposes must submit a set of the applicant's fingerprints and file with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry documentation indicating that the seeds planted were a type and variety of hemp approved by the commissioner. The bill also repeals the provision that licensure is contingent upon action by the federal government.

This bill requires that any hemp seeds acquired for cultivation of hemp in the State must come from an approved Canadian producer of hemp seeds. The bill allows the commissioner to issue licenses for hemp seed distribution to holders of seed labeling licenses. The bill also allows hemp growers licensed by the State to acquire hemp seeds directly from a producer in Canada or from a State-licensed hemp seed distributor. The bill requires that application fees and license fees must be established by major substantive rules. The bill also includes an appropriations and allocations section.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-41)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

The amendment provides that hemp seeds acquired for cultivation of hemp in the State may come from any certified seed source rather than only approved Canadian producers of hemp seeds. The amendment provides that rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 2231 are routine technical rules. The amendment includes the addition of per acre fees for monitoring, sampling and testing and establishes a range and cap for all fees established by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry related to industrial hemp production. The amendment also replaces the appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 202 removes the requirements that an applicant for an initial license to grow industrial hemp for commercial purposes must submit a set of the applicant's fingerprints and file with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry documentation indicating that the seeds planted were a type and variety of hemp approved by the commissioner and also repeals the provision that licensure is contingent upon action by the federal government.

Public Law 2015, chapter 202 provides that any hemp seeds acquired for cultivation of hemp in the State may come from any certified seed source. It allows the commissioner to issue licenses for hemp seed distribution to holders of seed labeling licenses and allows hemp growers licensed by the State to acquire hemp seeds directly from a producer in Canada or from a state-licensed hemp seed distributor. It requires that application fees and license fees must be established by routine technical rules, includes the addition of per acre fees for monitoring, sampling and testing and establishes a range and cap for all fees established by the commissioner related to industrial hemp production.

Public Law 2015, chapter 202 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 16, 2015.