

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

August 2015

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# STATE OF MAINE

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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 127<sup>th</sup> 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.

*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 First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> 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 State and Local Government*

**LD 46**

**An Act To Allow Municipal Boards of Appeal To Grant Setback Variances for Certain Hardships Caused by Prior Owners of the Property**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)

VEROW

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

Current law allows a municipality to grant a setback variance for single-family dwellings in cases of undue hardship, as long as the hardship is not the result of action taken by the applicant or a prior owner of the property. This bill allows a setback variance based on hardship to be granted even if the hardship is the result of action taken by a prior owner.

**LD 67**

**An Act To Amend the Law Regarding the Annual Municipal Report Requirement**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)

VEROW  
DUTREMBLE

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill makes the following changes regarding the statutory requirements regarding annual municipal reports.

1. It allows a summary of all financial transactions in lieu of a record of all financial transactions.
2. It makes the listing of delinquent taxpayers and engineering and survey reports optional.
3. It eliminates the penalty for a municipal official who refuses or neglects to perform a duty related to annual reporting.

**LD 80**

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Lower the Age Requirement To Run for Legislative Office**

**Died Between Houses**

Sponsor(s)

BRAKEY

Committee Report

OTP-AM  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

S-54

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to provide for lowering the age requirements to serve in the Maine House of Representatives from 21 to 18 years of age and to serve in the Maine Senate from 25 to 21 years of age.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-54)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and incorporates a fiscal note.