

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 STATE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

August 2015

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

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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 State and Local Government

LD 82 An Act Concerning the Salary of Sheriffs

PUBLIC 41

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS	OTP-AM	S-25

This bill specifies that the salary of an elected county sheriff may not be reduced during the sheriff's term unless the sheriff voluntarily agrees to the salary reduction.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-25)

This amendment replaces the bill and requires due notice and hearing prior to reducing a county sheriff's salary during the sheriff's term after a complaint of malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect or gross negligence against that county sheriff.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 41 requires due notice and hearing prior to reducing a county sheriff's salary during the sheriff's term after a complaint of malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect or gross negligence against that county sheriff.

**LD 106 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
To Increase the Length of Terms of Senators to 4 Years**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUTREMBLE FOWLE	ONTP	

This constitutional resolution increases the length of the terms of State Senators from two years to four years, beginning with the Senators elected in 2016.

LD 107 An Act To Recognize the Labrador Retriever as the Official State Dog

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUTREMBLE	ONTP OTP	

This bill designates the Labrador Retriever as the official state dog.

**LD 110 An Act To Designate Pure Maine Maple Syrup as the Official State
Sweetener**

PUBLIC 70

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLACK DILL	OTP-AM	H-67

This bill designates maple syrup as the official state sweetener.

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Committee Amendment "A" (H-67)

This amendment specifies that pure Maine maple syrup, instead of maple syrup as proposed in the bill, is the official state sweetener.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 70 designates pure Maine maple syrup as the official state sweetener.

LD 114 **Resolve, Authorizing the Bureau of General Services To Offer Certain Property to Kennebec County for 6 Months Prior to Listing the Property with Private Real Estate Brokers**

RESOLVE 20

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ POULIOT	OTP-AM OTP-AM	S-52

This resolve gives the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services authority to sell the property identified as the Augusta District Court to Kennebec County to be used to house the Registry of Deeds and other county offices.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-52)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and makes the following changes.

1. It removes language that states that the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services must sell the property identified as the Augusta District Court to Kennebec County, and instead specifies that for six months following the effective date of the resolve the commissioner may negotiate and execute a purchase and sale agreement with Kennebec County for the sale of the property.
2. It provides that if Kennebec County determines prior to the end of the six-month period that it does not want to purchase the state property, the county must notify the commissioner in writing.
3. It prohibits the commissioner during the six-month period from negotiating or executing a purchase and sale agreement with any other party for the sale of the property unless Kennebec County notifies the commissioner in writing that the county does not want to purchase the property.
4. It provides that if after the six-month period a purchase and sale agreement has not been executed or after written notice that the county does not want to purchase the property, the commissioner may list the property for sale or lease with private real estate brokers and negotiate any sales or leases, solicit bids, sell directly to purchasers or enter directly into leases with tenants.
5. It adds a section requiring an independent appraisal of the property.
6. It adds a section specifying the disposition of proceeds from the sale of the property.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-53)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and makes the following changes.

1. It removes language that states that the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services must sell the property identified as the Augusta District Court to Kennebec County, and instead specifies that for six months following the effective date of the resolve the commissioner may negotiate and execute a purchase and sale