

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 TAXATION

August 2015

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JULIE JONES, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW
5 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1635

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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 Taxation

This bill repeals that limitation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-15)

This amendment clarifies the intent of the bill by restoring the dates, which the bill strikes, that establish the period of time of service for eligibility for the veterans' exemption for the Vietnam War.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 353 became law without the Governor's signature and removes the 180 day service requirement for eligibility for a property tax exemption for veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

LD 183 **An Act To Decrease Property Taxes by Increasing the Sales Tax** **ONTP**

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

This bill increases the homestead property tax exemption from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and requires that municipalities be reimbursed for 100 percent of the taxes lost due to the increase. The bill also increases from five percent to six percent the sales tax on tangible personal property and taxable services and products transferred electronically with a value of \$5,000 or less.

See also the biennial budget bill, PL 2015, chapter 267, Part J which increases the homestead exemption to \$15,000 in 2016 and \$20,000 in 2017 and subsequent years.

LD 191 **An Act To Require the Transfer of a Forest Management and Harvest Plan upon the Transfer of Land in the Tree Growth Tax Program** **ONTP**

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

This bill provides that, when land taxed under the tree growth tax program is transferred, the new landowner may file a sworn statement that a new forest management and harvest plan has been prepared. If the new landowner does not file a new plan, the landowner must continue to manage the land in accordance with the plan prepared for the previous landowner or the land is considered to have been withdrawn from the program.

LD 208 **An Act To Provide Funding for Maintaining Cemeteries within the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY BRYANT	ONTP	

This bill requires that the sales tax collected from the sale of United States flags be deposited into the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund for the purpose of maintaining the cemeteries in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System.

See also LD 11.