

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

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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.

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This bill prohibits a municipality from including a referendum question to legalize the recreational use of marijuana on a ballot or in a warrant or considering it at a town meeting.

LD 182 An Act To Eliminate Term Limits for Legislators

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN J	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill eliminates term limits for Legislators.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-140)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It replaces the bill and instead increases the amount of time that a State Senator and State Representative may serve from four consecutive terms, as in current law, to six consecutive terms or 12 consecutive years, whichever is less in duration.

LD 224 An Act To Limit the Information Required To Be Printed on Municipal Referenda Ballots

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

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

This bill amends the laws governing municipal referenda elections to specify that only the question to the voters is required to be printed on the ballot and that the printing of the full text of the proposal and any financial information is optional.

LD 244 An Act To Require the Use of Preapproved Subcontractors for Publicly Funded Construction Projects

**Died Between
Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DECHANT PATRICK	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill requires the use of preapproved subcontractors for certain components of work, covering 16 different trades, included in bids awarded to general contractors for public improvement construction projects subject to competitive bidding.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-395)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and requires the use of preapproved subcontractors for certain components of work included in bids awarded to general contractors for the construction, major alteration or repair of school buildings over \$250,000. It also increases the threshold proposed in the bill for the use of preapproved subcontractors from \$100,000 to \$250,000 for capital improvement contracts subject to competitive bidding that included the use of subcontractors in its bid. It also removes the list of components of capital improvement projects in the bill and instead makes reference to a list of components to be maintained by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services. The amendment also adds an

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appropriations and allocations section.

LD 245 An Act To Rename B Stream in Houlton as Captain Ambrose Bear Stream

PUBLIC 12

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAR COLLINS	OTP	

This bill requires the Aroostook County Commissioners to rename B Stream in and near the Town of Houlton in Aroostook County to Captain Ambrose Bear Stream, in honor of Captain Ambrose Bear, a Maliseet Indian chief who served in the Revolutionary War. The bill also requires the county commissioners to notify the appropriate authorities and agencies of the name change. The Department of Transportation is required to change any existing road signs designating B Stream to refer to Captain Ambrose Bear Stream. The bill also requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to amend its rules to change the name of B Stream to Captain Ambrose Bear Stream, and it changes the name where the name B Stream is cited in statute.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 12 requires the Aroostook County Commissioners to rename B Stream in and near the Town of Houlton in Aroostook County to Captain Ambrose Bear Stream, in honor of Captain Ambrose Bear, a Maliseet Indian chief who served in the Revolutionary War. It also requires the county commissioners to notify the appropriate authorities and agencies of the name change. The Department of Transportation is required to change any existing road signs designating B Stream to refer to Captain Ambrose Bear Stream. Public Law 2015, chapter 12 also requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to amend its rules to change the name of B Stream to Captain Ambrose Bear Stream, and it changes the name where the name B Stream is cited in statute.

LD 258 An Act Regarding Posting of Legal Notices and Legal Advertising

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill clarifies that legal notices may be placed in newspapers offered to the public for free as long as all other requirements for an eligible newspaper are met.

LD 331 An Act To Quantitatively Evaluate State Contracts

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN JOHNSON	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to create a process to quantitatively evaluate a state contract to determine the total value of the contract to the State using multipliers for factors such as the amount of raw materials from in-state sources, the number of state residents employed and the use of vendors, consultants and subcontractors from the State to evaluate bids and existing contract performance and for general public information.