

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 TRANSPORTATION

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 Transportation

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 1 makes allocations from gross revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the payment of the authority's operating expenses for the calendar year ending December 31, 2016 in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6.

LD 246 An Act To Prohibit the Handling of a Mobile Telephone While Operating a Motor Vehicle ONTP

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

This bill prohibits operating a motor vehicle while handling a mobile telephone. The bill allows certain people to handle mobile telephones while driving within the scope of their employment, including drivers of authorized emergency vehicles, holders of commercial driver's licenses, physicians, municipal public works personnel, Maine Turnpike Authority personnel and state transportation personnel, including all employees and contractors of the Department of Transportation. The bill makes the offense a traffic infraction.

See also LD 185.

LD 247 An Act To Create Corridor Districts for the Purpose of Funding Transportation and Transit Services Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN ROSEN	OTP-AM ONTP	H-254

This bill, which is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposes to provide for a more predictable and stable environment to fund transit and mobility needs, including passenger rail, ferries and bus, bike and pedestrian routes, by allowing the creation of multimunicipal, multijurisdictional transportation districts along defined transportation corridors and to form service sharing and revenue partnerships. The corridor districts will have the authority to bond infrastructure; raise funds for operations, capital investment and maintenance of facilities; purchase, own and lease real estate, including station and station area infrastructure financing; and support downtown infrastructure financing strategies, transit corridor infrastructure financing strategies and regional transportation initiatives.

A local referendum will be required in each municipality desiring to participate in a transit partnership. District membership will be identified by criteria specific to a defined transportation corridor. The districts will provide inducements for expanding, retaining businesses and attracting new investments and provide adequate revenues to support critical state and local transportation services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-254)

This amendment, which is the majority report, strikes and replaces the concept draft. The amendment provides for the formation of transportation corridor districts within the current law relating to transit districts and regional transportation corporations. The amendment provides that a municipality may, by itself or in cooperation with one or more other municipalities, form a transportation corridor district for the purposes of providing an environment to fund public transportation and accessibility needs, including passenger rail, ferry, bus, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and routes, and promoting economic development at transportation station areas and in downtown areas.

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

The amendment requires a municipality or group of municipalities to select the borders of the transportation corridor district. The amendment requires that the formation of a transportation corridor district be approved by a voter referendum in each participating municipality. The amendment authorizes a district's board of directors, with approval from all municipalities in the district, to change the borders of the district. The amendment also provides that a transportation corridor district, if approved by voter referendum in each municipality participating in the district, may borrow money temporarily and issue its negotiable notes for that money and issue securities of the district.

**LD 260 Resolve, To Create a License Plate To Recognize the Centennial of the United States Navy Reserve **RESOLVE 43
EMERGENCY****

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLLINS MAKER	OTP-AM	S-11

This resolve creates a special commemorative, simulated motor vehicle registration plate in celebration of the centennial of the United States Navy Reserve, which takes place March 3, 2015. The Secretary of State is directed to design and issue the plate, which may be displayed until March 3, 2016 covering the front registration plate. Revenue generated by the sale of the plate in excess of the cost of production and issuance will be given to the Maine Military Family Relief Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-11)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 43 creates a special commemorative, simulated motor vehicle registration plate in celebration of the centennial of the United States Navy Reserve, which took place March 3, 2015. The Secretary of State is directed to design and issue the plate, which may be displayed until March 3, 2016 covering the front registration plate. Revenue generated by the sale of the plate in excess of the cost of production and issuance will be given to the Maine Military Family Relief Fund.

Resolve 2015, chapter 43 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 23, 2015.

LD 262 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority To Erect Highway Signs for Thornton Academy **ONTP**

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

This resolve directs the Maine Turnpike Authority to place directional signs to Thornton Academy in the City of Saco on the Maine Turnpike at the northbound and southbound exits of the highway that are located closest to Thornton Academy, and the Department of Transportation to place directional signs on Interstate 195 in each direction. The resolve directs Thornton Academy to assume all costs associated with the signs.