

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 JUDICIARY

August 2015

STAFF:

MARGARET J. REINSCH, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
HENRY FOUTS, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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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 Judiciary

LD 344 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Confidentiality of Library Records

PUBLIC 81

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

Current law designates as confidential library records that identify the books or materials a patron uses at a public library, the Maine State Library, the Law and Legislative Reference Library and the libraries of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy.

This bill retains that designation of confidentiality and also designates as confidential personally identifying information about the library patron. The bill also retains the provision that the confidential information may be released with the written permission of the library patron or pursuant to a court order but adds language permitting the confidential information to be released to officers, employees, volunteers and agents of the library for administrative purposes. The bill clarifies that a library may publish and release as a public record aggregated and statistical information about library use if the confidentiality of a library patron's personally identifying information is not jeopardized.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 81 designates as confidential personally identifying information about a library patron and permits the confidential information to be released to officers, employees, volunteers and agents of the library for administrative purposes. It clarifies that a library may publish and release as a public record aggregated and statistical information about library use if the confidentiality of a library patron's personally identifying information is not jeopardized.

LD 346 An Act To Require Shared Parenting of Minor Children When the Parents Separate

ONTP

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

This bill requires the court to order shared parenting when parents of minor children separate unless the court finds proof of domestic abuse, drug use or neglect in the family. It requires the court to start with the presumption of shared parenting when determining the best interest of the child and to incorporate into the order the sharing of parental rights and responsibilities agreed to by the parents unless there is proof of domestic abuse, drug use or neglect in the family.

LD 349 An Act To Ensure Accountability of Guardians Ad Litem

ONTP

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

This bill:

1. Removes the quasi-judicial immunity provided to guardians ad litem by statute;