

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 LABOR, COMMERCE,
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

This bill creates a rebuttable presumption that a personal injury to a paid or volunteer firefighter or a paid or volunteer emergency medical services person considered an employee within the meaning of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 is considered to arise out of and in the course of employment and is compensable under the Act if the personal injury occurs at any time after the firefighter or emergency medical services person receives notice of a fire or emergency and is in the process of responding.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-77)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 361 An Act To Allow Licensed Dental Professionals To Own Dental Practices Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill clarifies that anyone licensed by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Board of Dental Examiners may be a proprietor of a dental practice.

LD 362 An Act To Require Dentists To Disclose the Cost and Origin of Off-site Laboratory Services ONTP

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

This bill requires that a dentist provide a patient with a written disclosure of the cost and origin of all laboratory services billed to that patient.

LD 372 An Act To Enhance the Promotion of Hunting and Fishing Opportunities in Maine by the Office of Tourism ONTP

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

This bill requires that at least 25% of all advertising by the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism must include promotional information related to hunting or fishing.

LD 377 An Act To Continue the Visual and Digital Media Loan Program and the Visual and Digital Media Loan Fund Veto Sustained

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

Current law allows the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, through the Visual and Digital Media Loan Program, to provide loans to digital media projects or visual media productions of up to \$500,000 per

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project or production. The loans are funded from the Visual and Digital Media Loan Fund, which is maintained by the Finance Authority of Maine. The laws authorizing the Visual and Digital Media Loan Program and the Visual and Digital Media Loan Fund are set to be repealed on December 31, 2015.

This bill delays the repeal of the program and fund until December 31, 2018.

LD 402 Resolve, To Amend Rules Regarding Proof of Ownership of Logging Equipment and Recruitment by Employers Employing Foreign Laborers To Operate Logging Equipment ONTP

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

This resolve directs the Department of Labor to amend its rule regarding proof of ownership of logging equipment and recruitment by employers employing foreign laborers to operate logging equipment in conformance with the provisionally adopted major substantive rule submitted to the 126th Legislature for review, except that the rule must incorporate the changes that were authorized by the 126th Legislature. The resolve provides that the department is not required to hold hearings prior to adoption of the rule and directs the department to implement the rule using existing resources.

LD 403 An Act To Eliminate the Exception from Minimum Wage Laws for Workers Who Receive Tips ONTP

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

This bill eliminates the “tip credit” provision of Maine’s minimum wage law that allows an employer to offset up to 50% of the minimum wage paid to a service employee who receives tips, provided that the employee receives at least the minimum hourly wage when direct wages and tips are combined.

LD 404 An Act To Prohibit Public Employers from Acting as Collection Agents for Labor Unions Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

Current law allows a public employer to deduct service fees owed by an employee to a collective bargaining agent pursuant to a lawful collective bargaining agreement. This bill prohibits a public employer from collecting those fees or collecting member dues.

LD 422 An Act To Improve Access to Treatments for Lyme Disease PUBLIC 235

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANDERSON JOHNSON	OTP-AM OTP-AM	H-216