

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES**

August 2015

MEMBERS:

SEN. THOMAS B. SAVIELLO, CHAIR
SEN. ERIC L. BRAKEY
SEN. CATHERINE BREEN

REP. JOAN W. WELSH, CHAIR
REP. ROBERT S. DUCHESNE
REP. JOHN L. MARTIN
REP. DENISE PATRICIA HARLOW
REP. RALPH L. TUCKER
REP. RICHARD H. CAMPBELL
REP. ANDREW RUSSELL BUCKLAND
REP. JEFFERY P. HANLEY
REP. DUSTIN MICHAEL WHITE
REP. BENJAMIN M. CHIPMAN

STAFF:

DANIEL TARTAKOFF, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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 Environment and Natural Resources

existing portion of a project that is expanded as long as the existing portion met all applicable state and municipal standards for storm water management in effect at the time the existing portion was constructed. This exemption does not apply to an existing project that is expanded if the existing storm water management system will be used, in whole or in part, to treat storm water flowing from the expanded portion of the existing project; the expanded portion of the existing project; or a redevelopment project.

LD 396 An Act To Encourage the Use of Alternatives to Single-use Plastic Disposable Bags ONTP

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

This bill requires a retailer to assess a 5¢ fee for a single-use plastic disposable bag distributed to a customer at the point of retail sale. The retailer retains 1¢ from each 5¢ fee for administrative costs and may elect to retain an additional 1¢ from each 5¢ fee to provide a carryout program that credits a customer no less than 5¢ for each bag provided by the customer at the point of retail sale for packaging purchases. The revenues from the fee, less the portion retained by the retailer for administrative costs and, if applicable, the carryout program, are credited to the Plastics Recycling Fund administered by the Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of promoting recycling efforts in the State related to plastics. A retailer may provide recyclable paper products at the point of sale and must provide reusable bags for purchase by a customer. This bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to enforce these laws and impose penalties for violations. This bill also directs that, by January 1, 2016, the Department of Environmental Protection must conduct a public information campaign relating to plastics and their impact on the environment and must implement an outreach campaign aimed at providing reusable bags to residents of the State, especially to elderly and low-income households.

LD 397 An Act Regarding the Packaging and Labeling of Disposable Cleaning and Personal Hygiene Products Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill provides that, effective January 1, 2016, a person may not package or label a disposable cleaning or personal hygiene product for distribution or sale in the State in a package or with a label that states the product is flushable and safe for sewer and septic systems unless the package or label states in a highly visible manner that the product is flushable and safe for sewer and septic systems; the person makes available to the Department of Environmental Protection and maintains written documentation of testing substantiating that the product meets the acceptance criteria for flushability as published in the Guidance Document for Assessing the Flushability of Nonwoven Consumer Products, published by the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry on June 1, 2013; and this testing has been performed by a laboratory that is capable of performing and qualified to perform the testing. The bill also provides that a person may not package or label a disposable cleaning or personal hygiene product for distribution or sale in the State that is not flushable or safe for sewer and septic systems unless the package or label on the product states in a highly visible manner that the product is not flushable or safe for sewer or septic systems. These requirements do not apply to a wholesaler or retailer that distributes or sells but does not package or label disposable cleaning or personal hygiene products or to liquid, gel or powder cleaning products or septic treatment products. The bill directs the department to adopt rules to implement these provisions.