

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 CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

August 2015

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

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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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- 4. It extends the term of a permit to carry a concealed handgun from four to 10 years.
- 5. It removes the requirement that an applicant for a handgun permit have taken a handgun safety course within five years of the date of application.
- 6. It increases the application and renewal fees for a concealed handgun permit from \$35 to \$52.50 and from \$20 to \$52.50, respectively, for a resident. For a nonresident, the fee is increased from \$60 to \$120 for either an application or a renewal.
- 7. It requires the State Police to establish a centralized database containing information about concealed handgun permit holders and applicants for concealed handgun permits. It provides that the centralized database may be used only by law enforcement agencies or law enforcement officers or by court order and that information about a permit holder or an applicant must be purged from the centralized database within five years after the permit expires or the appeal of a denial or a revocation has run.
- 8. It provides that a valid concealed handgun permit issued before January 1, 2017 is not subject to the provisions of this legislation, which apply to an application for a new concealed handgun permit or a renewal of valid concealed handgun permit received by the Chief of the State Police on or after January 1, 2017.
- 9. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.
- 10. It adds an effective date of January 1, 2017.

LD 431 An Act To Strengthen the Laws Prohibiting Stalking

PUBLIC 357

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BURNS TIMMONS	OTP-AM	S-49

This bill expands the crime of stalking to include conduct directed at or concerning a group of persons. This new classification of stalking is a Class C crime, as opposed to a Class D crime for stalking a single individual. This bill also changes the escalation of criminal penalties for subsequent convictions of stalking, with one prior conviction for stalking or violation of a protective order sufficient to enhance penalties, as opposed to the current two prior convictions. Subsequent convictions are still a Class C crime, but the bill adds a mandatory minimum sentence of one year. Prior conviction of stalking a group of persons escalates the penalty to that for a Class B crime, with a mandatory minimum sentence of two years.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-49)

This amendment replaces the minimum sentence provision in the bill that applies to a person convicted of stalking for a second time or more times. The amendment replaces the minimum sentence for a second or subsequent conviction of stalking with a requirement that the court use a two-step process, first determining a base term of imprisonment of one year and then considering the fact of the stalking and aggravating and mitigating factors, including the impact on the victim, when determining the length of the term of imprisonment. The amendment replaces the minimum sentence provision in the bill that applies to a person convicted of stalking for a second time or more times, when the person stalked two or more persons of an identifiable group. The amendment requires the court to use a two-step process, first determining a base term of imprisonment of two years and then considering the fact of the stalking and aggravating and mitigating factors, including the impact on the victim, when determining the length of the term of imprisonment.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 357 changes the laws on repeat offenses of stalking and expands the crime of stalking to

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include conduct directed at or concerning a group of persons. The law does the following:

1. Expands the crime of stalking to include conduct directed at or concerning a group of persons, designating this crime as a Class C crime. In sentencing, the court is required to use a two-step process in which a base term of imprisonment of one year is imposed in step one and adjustment to that term is imposed in step two;
2. Designates as a Class B crime a repeat offense of stalking a group of persons and escalates that crime to a Class B crime, requiring the court to use a two-step process, first determining a base term of imprisonment of two years and then adjusting that term after considering the fact of the stalking and aggravating and mitigating factors, including the impact on the victim; and
3. Changes the escalation of criminal penalties for subsequent convictions of stalking, with one prior conviction for stalking or violation of a protective order now being sufficient to enhance penalties. Subsequent convictions are still Class C crimes, but the law adds a mandatory minimum sentence of one year.

LD 440 An Act To Create a Secure, Therapeutic Mental Health Unit

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY DION		

This bill provides for the establishment of a secure, therapeutic mental health unit for defendants undergoing court-ordered assessments to determine their competency to stand trial or their criminal culpability and to provide therapeutic care for forensic patients. The bill establishes the unit as follows.

1. It directs the Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to enter into an agreement to establish the unit with the sheriff of either Cumberland County or Somerset County.
2. It directs the Department of Corrections to provide security for the unit. Security staff must be dedicated to the unit and trained to provide security in a mental health hospital environment.
3. It directs the Department of Corrections to provide therapeutic mental health care for the unit. The therapeutic mental health care must meet standards established by a national organization on correctional facilities mental health standards. The Department of Health and Human Services may also provide mental health services to the unit upon agreement with the Department of Corrections and the county jail.
4. It requires that the population in a secure, therapeutic mental health unit be separated by sight and sound from the general jail population.
5. It specifies that a person under a court order to undergo a mental evaluation by the State Forensic Service must be admitted to the unit unless the Department of Health and Human Services determines that the person's mental health condition contraindicates admittance to the unit, the person is an inmate at a state correctional facility or there is not a suitable bed available.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.