

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 AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

August 2015

MEMBERS:

SEN. PETER E. EDGECOMB, CHAIR
SEN. THOMAS B. SAVIELLO
SEN. JAMES F. DILL

REP. CRAIG V. HICKMAN, CHAIR
REP. WILLIAM F. NOON
REP. ROBERT J. SAUCIER
REP. RALPH CHAPMAN
REP. MICHELLE ANN DUNPHY
REP. RUSSELL J. BLACK
REP. DONALD G. MAREAN
REP. CAROL A. MCELWEE
REP. ANTHONY J. EDGECOMB
REP. MARYANNE KINNEY

STAFF:

MICHAEL O'BRIEN, 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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment limits timber harvesting on public reserved lands and nonreserved public lands to an average of 141,500 cords per year over any two-year period, which is the sustainable harvesting level determined by an independent timber inventory conducted in 2012. The amendment allows the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by rule, based on an independent timber inventory conducted after July 1, 2015, to establish a different sustainable harvest level. The rules are major substantive rules and must be reviewed by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public reserved and nonreserved lands matters.

LD 389 An Act Relating to the Sale of Hypodermic Apparatuses

PUBLIC 27

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

This bill clarifies that an agricultural supply store may furnish or sell, without limit in number, hypodermic apparatuses to a livestock owner and that the sale by the agricultural supply store and the possession by the person who owns livestock expressly fall within the exceptions to the laws restricting possession and furnishing of hypodermic apparatuses.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 27 clarifies that an agricultural supply store may furnish or sell, without limit in number, hypodermic apparatuses to a livestock owner and that the sale by the agricultural supply store and the possession by the person who owns livestock expressly fall within the exceptions to the laws restricting possession and furnishing of hypodermic apparatuses.

LD 414 An Act To Remove Certain Exemptions to the Laws Concerning Tree Specialists

ONTP

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

This bill eliminates the arborist licensing exemption for highway contractors, subcontractors and their employees who remove trees during the performance of contracts for the construction or maintenance of highways and general contractors who remove interfering shade or ornamental trees or interfering parts of shade or ornamental trees in the conduct of their regular business. This bill also increases the penalty for violating a provision of the laws regarding arborists from up to \$500 per day to up to \$1,000 per day but provides for a warning for a first offense.

LD 456 An Act To Include Nonalcoholic Malt Beverages in the List of Exempt Products in the Law Regarding the Labeling of Genetically Engineered Products

PUBLIC 118

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

This bill exempts nonalcoholic malt beverages from the disclosure requirements of the laws regulating the labeling of genetically engineered products.

Enacted Law Summary

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Public Law 2015, chapter 118 exempts nonalcoholic malt beverages from the disclosure requirements of the laws regulating the labeling of genetically engineered products.

LD 457 An Act To Redistribute the Agricultural Fair Support Fund INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAUCIER BREEN		

This bill requires that slot machine revenue from the casino located in Oxford County and credited to the Agricultural Fair Support Fund be distributed only to agricultural fairs licensed to accept wagers on harness racing and not to commercial tracks. Current law divides slot machine revenue credited to the Agricultural Fair Support Fund between commercial harness racing tracks and agricultural fairs licensed to accept wagers on harness racing.

This bill was not referred to a committee.

LD 533 An Act To Ensure Humane Conditions for Egg-laying Poultry ONTP

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

This bill provides for humane space standards for all egg-laying poultry that allow the poultry to move freely, with exceptions for specific circumstances.

LD 546 An Act To Assist Individuals To Obtain a Permit To Grow and Sell Water Spinach ONTP

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

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to provide information about the proper process for obtaining a federal permit to individuals seeking to grow and sell water spinach in Maine.

LD 547 An Act Regarding Service Dogs ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL R SAVIELLO	ONTP	

This bill requires an individual registering a service dog to present to the municipal clerk a letter signed by a physician, psychologist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner indicating that the individual or a member of the individual's household requires the service dog and a certification or other document indicating that the service dog has completed training from an established service animal training organization or has been evaluated by a certified animal trainer and found to have a sound temperament suitable for a service dog. The bill also requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to ensure that a service dog registration tag clearly indicates that the dog is a service animal and to devise a method of ensuring that a service dog's registration tag is visible to