

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

August 2015

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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 127<sup>th</sup> 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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted private &amp; 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 127<sup>th</sup> 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 Transportation

Public Law 2015, chapter 89 clarifies that the operator of a motor vehicle approaching a railroad crossing must stop the vehicle not less than 15 feet and not more than 50 feet from the nearest rail of the railroad track and may not proceed if a clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device warns of the approach of a train; a crossing gate is lowered or a flagger gives or continues to give a signal or warning of the approach or passage of a train; a train is visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing; or a sign, device or law requires the vehicle to stop.

**LD 543      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Use of Flashing Lights by School Buses      ONTP**

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

This bill allows a school bus driver to receive or discharge passengers without activating flashing lights during a school field trip or sports trip when the passengers are with a chaperone or a coach and the school bus driver determines it is safe to do so.

**LD 544      An Act To Assist Maine Veterans and Service Members      ONTP**

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

This bill establishes the Veterans Count Maine Donation Fund and allows for a person to designate a donation to be paid into the fund when applying for or renewing a driver's license.

**LD 545      An Act To Require That Traffic Lights Default to Flashing Mode between the Hours of Midnight and 6 a.m.      ONTP**

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

This bill requires that traffic lights default to a flashing mode between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 a.m.

**LD 554      An Act Concerning Commercial Vehicles at Canadian Weight Limits Traveling to Certain Points in the State      PUBLIC 119  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAKER BURNS	OTP-AM	H-85

This bill changes the weight limits that certain commercial vehicles may have when traveling from the United States-Canada border to certain points in the State.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-85)**

This amendment changes the bill by removing language allowing three-axle truck tractors with four-axle