

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 AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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 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

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

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

the public.

LD 598 An Act To Strengthen the Maine Agriculture Protection Act

PUBLIC 145

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIMBERLAKE MASON	OTP-AM	H-200

This bill ensures that agricultural composting operations are included in all sections of the Maine Agriculture Protection Act, also commonly known as the right-to-farm law, that protect farms and farm operations.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-200)

This amendment adds manure and compost to the definition of "agricultural products," which is defined for the Maine Agriculture Protection Act.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 145 ensures that agricultural composting operations are included in all sections of the Maine Agriculture Protection Act, also commonly known as the right-to-farm law, that protect farms and farm operations. In addition, it adds manure and compost to the definition of "agricultural products," which is defined for the Maine Agriculture Protection Act.

LD 653 An Act To Increase Consumption of Maine Foods in All State Institutions

ONTP

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

This bill establishes a schedule for the current law that requires state and school purchasers to buy meat, fish, dairy products, excluding milk and eggs, and species of fruits and fresh vegetables directly from Maine food producers or food brokers. The bill establishes a minimum percentage of Maine foodstuffs that must be purchased, requiring at least 15 percent by December 31, 2021, at least 20 percent by December 31, 2026, at least 25 percent by December 31, 2036 and at least 35 percent by December 31, 2037. The bill exempts from the requirements school purchasers at schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. The bill requires competitive bidding when more than one producer, broker or wholesaler can supply a given foodstuff. The bill also strikes the language in current law that excludes milk and eggs from this requirement.

LD 656 An Act To Enhance Forest Ranger Safety

ONTP

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

This bill:

1. Repeals two provisions of Public Law 1999, chapter 352 that require the Commissioner of Conservation to sell all bulletproof vests, firearms and related equipment and that prohibit the commissioner from purchasing bulletproof vests, firearms or related equipment without specific authorization by the Legislature;