

# 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 LABOR, COMMERCE,  
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

August 2015

**STAFF:**

NATALIE HAYNES, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
HENRY FOUTS, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

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# STATE OF MAINE

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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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development*

**LD 612      An Act To Require a Large Employer To Provide a Paper Paystub upon Request from an Employee      ONTP**

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

This bill requires an employer with more than 50 employees to provide upon request to an employee a paper receipt of wages for a pay period.

**LD 613      An Act To Allow Certain Businesses To Be Open on Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day      Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LYFORD CUSHING	ONTP OTP	

Current law prohibits stores with more than 5,000 square feet of interior customer selling space from being open on Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. This bill prohibits stores with more than 10,000 square feet of interior customer selling space from being open on Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day but allows such a store to be open on those holidays if the store is operated and staffed only by the owner or an immediate family member of the owner.

**LD 671      An Act To Allow Independent Practice Dental Hygienists To Take X-rays      ONTP**

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

Under a pilot project that is scheduled to expire on March 15, 2015, independent practice dental hygienists are allowed to expose and process radiographs in areas of the State that have been designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services as dental health professional shortage areas. This bill continues the authority of these independent practice dental hygienists to expose and process radiographs indefinitely, under the same restrictions as imposed under the pilot project, except that the authorization applies in the entire State.

**LD 672      An Act To Improve Access to Capital      PUBLIC 38**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HERBIG VOLK	OTP-AM	H-58

This bill, which takes effect only upon the receipt by the Finance Authority of Maine Loan Insurance Reserve Fund of an appropriation, general obligation bond funding or other funding in the amount of at least \$37,000,000, increases the maximum loan insurance amount available through the Finance Authority of Maine from \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-58)**

## ***Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development***

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 38 increases the maximum loan insurance amount available through the Finance Authority of Maine from \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000. This provision takes effect only upon the receipt by the Finance Authority of Maine Loan Insurance Reserve Fund of an appropriation, general obligation bond funding or other funding in the amount of at least \$37,000,000.

### **LD 673 An Act To Help Prevent Age Discrimination**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)

LAJOIE  
LIBBY

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill prohibits an employer or an agent of an employer from including on a job application form a question that asks for the year of an applicant's high school graduation. The Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards shall enforce the law with a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

### **LD 674 An Act To Support Maine's Working Families**

**CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)

HERBIG  
PATRICK

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to explore proactive strategies to raise wages in this State, improve working conditions, increase predictability of scheduling and improve the overall economic security of working people in this State.

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

### **LD 675 An Act To Protect Earned Pay**

**Died Between  
Houses**

Sponsor(s)

HERBIG  
PATRICK

Committee Report

OTP-AM  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

Under the current law, a person who receives or is scheduled to receive remuneration in the form of vacation pay in excess of four weeks' wages or holiday pay is disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits for the week that remuneration is due. This bill removes those disqualifications.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-215)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, retains the offset eliminated in the bill for unemployment compensation benefits for holiday pay and vacation pay as specified in current law, but limits the offset for vacation pay to vacation pay in excess of 12 weeks instead of four weeks as under current law. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.