

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 LABOR, COMMERCE,
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

August 2015

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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 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.