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.

CARRIED OVER .... *carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature*
CON RES XXX .... *chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses*
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE .... *Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died*
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES .... *House & Senate disagreed; legislation died*
DIED IN CONCURRENCE .... *defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died*
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT .... *action incomplete when session ended; legislation died*
EMERGENCY .... *enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment*
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE .... *emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote*
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE .... *failed to receive final majority vote*
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT .... *legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote*
HELD BY GOVERNOR .... *Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session*
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW .... *sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted*
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY .... *ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died*
INDEF PP .... *indefinitely postponed; legislation died*
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X .... *ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died*
P&S XXX .... *chapter # of enacted private & special law*
PUBLIC XXX .... *chapter # of enacted public law*
RESOLVE XXX .... *chapter # of finally passed resolve*
VETO SUSTAINED .... *Legislature failed to override Governor's veto*

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.

LD 701   **An Act To Modify Unemployment Insurance Successor Law**   **PUBLIC 107**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
HERBIG	OTP-AM	H-120
VOLK	ONTP	

This bill changes the treatment of unemployment contribution rate assignment in successor transactions. In cases when the successor is a newly established employer, and when no substantial common ownership, management or control exists between the purchaser and the predecessor, the successor may opt to retain the predecessor's rate or be assigned the average contribution rate, whichever is lower. In such cases when the successor is an established employer with an existing contribution experience rate, the successor may choose to retain this rate or inherit the experience rate of the purchased business blended with the successor's existing rate to form a new experience rate, whichever is more favorable.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-120)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 107 changes the treatment of unemployment contribution rate assignment in successor transactions. In cases when the successor is a newly established employer, and when no substantial common ownership, management or control exists between the purchaser and the predecessor, the successor may opt to retain the predecessor's rate or be assigned the average contribution rate, whichever is lower. In such cases when the successor is an established employer with an existing contribution experience rate, the successor may choose to retain this rate or inherit the experience rate of the purchased business blended with the successor's existing rate to form a new experience rate, whichever is more favorable.

LD 702   **An Act To Clarify Filing Methods for Quarterly Payroll Reports**   **PUBLIC 39**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
HERBIG	OTP	
VOLK		

This bill allows for employers to file separate quarterly state withholding and unemployment tax forms electronically. It also renames the combined unemployment insurance contributions and income tax withholding account within the Unemployment Compensation Fund administered by the Commissioner of Labor the tax deposit account.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 39 allows for employers to file separate quarterly state withholding and unemployment tax forms electronically. It also renames the combined unemployment insurance contributions and income tax withholding account within the Unemployment Compensation Fund administered by the Commissioner of Labor the tax deposit account.