

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 HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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 Health and Human Services

LD 714 **Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Study Providing Medical Assistance to Maine's Inhabited Islands** **ONTP**

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

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to study the feasibility of, need for and cost of providing telemedicine medical assistance for residents and visitors on all the year-round inhabited islands in the State and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 15, 2016.

LD 715 **Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Hire Health Inspectors** **Died Between Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COOPER HASKELL	OTP-AM ONTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to hire a sufficient number of state-certified health inspectors to inspect each restaurant in this State at least once a year. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the number of health inspectors hired by the department pursuant to this resolve and the cost of those health inspectors no later than December 2, 2015. The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature related to health inspections for restaurants.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-199)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It specifies that the Department of Health and Human Services must hire five new state-certified health inspectors, instead of a sufficient number of inspectors as proposed in the resolve, and clarifies that the additional inspectors are to be hired for the purpose of inspecting each licensed establishment in this State pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2497. The amendment keeps the requirement that directs the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services regarding the cost of the new health inspectors and adds a requirement that the department report on whether it is meeting the inspection requirements of Title 22, section 2497. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 722 **An Act To Strengthen Penalties for Abuse of General Assistance** **PUBLIC 312**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRAKEY	OTP-AM	S-204

This bill provides that a person who makes a false representation of a material fact to obtain municipal general assistance is ineligible to receive further assistance for a period of the longer of 120 days and until that reimbursement is made. Current law provides for a period of ineligibility of 120 days.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-204)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment provides that a person who makes a false representation of a material fact to obtain municipal general assistance is ineligible to receive further assistance either for a period of