

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.

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.

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

2. Requires the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop and institute a policy that requires all forest rangers to attend and complete a law enforcement training course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a condition of employment. It provides that a forest ranger who has already attended a law enforcement training course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy is exempt;
3. Requires the state supervisor of the forest protection unit in the Bureau of Forestry and the Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to develop a plan to provide training to forest rangers in the use of firearms, bulletproof vests and other related equipment. The state supervisor is directed to develop a plan to furnish such firearms and equipment to those forest rangers for the performance of their law enforcement duties; and
4. Requires the state supervisor to submit the plan to furnish such firearms and equipment to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety for review no later than November 1, 2015 and to implement, including furnishing firearms and related equipment, no later than January 1, 2017.

LD 708 An Act To Limit the Use of Pesticides on School Grounds

ONTP

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

This bill restricts the use of pesticides on school grounds by allowing pesticide usage only in situations that pose a health threat to a student or staff member, in response to the presence of animals or insects identified as a public health nuisance or on agricultural fields in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to adopt rules to implement landscaping design that minimizes or avoids the necessity of the use of pesticides on school grounds for new construction of school facilities.

LD 709 An Act Regarding the Regulation of Rabbit Production for Local Consumption

ONTP

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

This bill permits rabbit producers to sell rabbit products without inspection at the farm on which the rabbits were raised, at farmers' markets, by delivery to consumers' homes, to community supported agriculture farms with which the rabbit producer has a direct marketing relationship, to locally owned grocery stores and to locally owned restaurants. The bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt rules to establish requirements for the physical facilities and sanitary processes used by rabbit producers whose products are exempt from inspection.

LD 745 An Act To Improve Forest Ranger Safety

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY L WILLETTE	OTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

This bill 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.

LD 783 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine CARRIED OVER
To Establish a Right to Food

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

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that every individual has a natural and unalienable right to food.

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

LD 791 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Wind Energy Development Accepted Majority
Permitting (ONTP) Report

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

This bill amends the laws governing the expedited permitting of grid-scale wind energy development by authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Land Use Planning Commission to add specified places to or remove specified places from the designated wind energy permitting area only if the commission receives the written consent of the owner or owners of the land proposed for addition or removal. The bill repeals the current provision of law governing additions to the area. The bill also changes the terms "expedited permitting area" and "expedited wind energy development" to "designated wind energy permitting area" and "designated wind energy development," respectively.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-375)

This amendment, which is the minority report, adds an appropriations and allocations section to provide funding to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission for rulemaking.

LD 817 An Act Regarding Aerial Pesticide Spray Projects PUBLIC 58

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO NOON	OTP ONTP	

This bill repeals notification and reporting provisions for forest insect aerial pesticide spray projects. The bill eliminates provisions related to government pesticide supervisors, spotters and monitors, including the certification, licensing and associated reporting requirements. Other provisions governing notification and reporting requirements for outdoor pesticide applications are contained in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control rules.

Enacted Law Summary