

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 ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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 Environment and Natural Resources

LD 911

An Act Concerning the Review of Certain Projects under the Site Location of Development Laws

PUBLIC 190

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WINSOR SAVIELLO	OTP-AM	H-271

This bill amends the laws regarding the expedited permitting of grid-scale wind energy development as follows:

1. It creates several new definitions relating to the scenic impact of a wind energy development;
2. It allows for the consideration of cumulative scenic impacts in the permitting of wind energy developments;
3. It adds to the definition of "scenic resource of state or national significance" great ponds that were studied for their value in 1987 or 1989 and that have on them commercial sporting camps established prior to 2007;
4. It allows the Department of Environmental Protection to require a visual impact assessment for wind energy developments located within 15 miles of scenic resources of state or national significance and mandates a visual impact assessment if a generating facility is located within 15 miles of specific scenic resources of state or national significance; and
5. It allows the Department of Environmental Protection to require a visual impact assessment for wind energy developments located beyond 15 miles from scenic resources of state or national significance under certain limited circumstances.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-271)

This amendment replaces the bill and amends the laws regarding the expedited permitting of grid-scale wind energy development as follows:

1. It creates new definitions relating to the scenic impact of a wind energy development project; and
2. It allows for the consideration of cumulative scenic impacts in the permitting of wind energy development projects.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 190 amends the laws regarding the expedited permitting of grid-scale wind energy development as follows:

1. It creates new definitions relating to the scenic impact of a wind energy development project; and
2. It allows for the consideration of cumulative scenic impacts in the permitting of wind energy development projects.

LD 947

An Act To Fund State Efforts To Reduce the Landfilling of Solid Waste

ONTP

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