

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

LD 914 An Act To Amend the Public Accountancy Laws

PUBLIC 110

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
AUSTIN PATRICK	OTP	

This bill amends definitions under Maine's accountancy laws and makes conforming changes to the accountancy laws regarding attest services to reflect the most recent version of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and National Association of State Boards of Accountancy Uniform Accountancy Act.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 110 amends definitions under Maine's accountancy laws and makes conforming changes to the accountancy laws regarding attest services to reflect the most recent version of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and National Association of State Boards of Accountancy Uniform Accountancy Act.

LD 918 An Act To Allow Licensed Independent Practice Dental Hygienists To Expose and Process Radiographs under Protocols Developed by the Board of Dental Examiners

**PUBLIC 2
EMERGENCY**

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

This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development pursuant to joint order, S.P. 306. Under a pilot project that was scheduled to expire on March 15, 2015, independent practice dental hygienists were allowed to expose and process radiographs in areas of the State that have been designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services as dental health professional shortage areas.

This bill continues the authority of these independent practice dental hygienists to expose and process radiographs indefinitely, under the same restrictions as imposed under the pilot project, except that the authorization applies statewide. This bill requires the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Board of Dental Examiners to adopt routine technical rules by July 30, 2015 for the administration of this authorization. Prior to the adoption of rules, the rules that are in effect for the pilot project apply to independent practice dental hygienists who are authorized pursuant to this legislation to expose and process radiographs, except that the provisions of the rule limiting the authorization to dental health professional shortage areas and requiring an independent practice dental hygienist to notify the board of the intent to expose and process radiographs do not apply. Finally, this law repeals the resolve that created the pilot project, effective on the same day as this legislation.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 2 continues the authority of independent practice dental hygienists to expose and process radiographs indefinitely, under the same restrictions as imposed under a previously authorized pilot project, except that the authorization applies statewide. The law requires the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Board of Dental Examiners to adopt routine technical rules by July 30, 2015 for the administration of this authorization. Prior to the adoption of rules, the rules that are in effect for the pilot project apply to independent practice dental hygienists who are authorized pursuant to this legislation to expose and process radiographs, except that the provisions of the rule limiting the authorization to dental health professional shortage areas and requiring an independent practice dental hygienist to notify the board of the intent to expose and process radiographs do not apply. Finally, this law repeals the resolve that created the pilot project, effective on the same day as this

legislation.

Public Law 2015, chapter 2 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 13, 2015.

LD 921 An Act To Strengthen the Right of a Victim of Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence To Take Necessary Leave from Employment and To Promote Employee Social Media Privacy

PUBLIC 343

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAUGHTRY	OTP-AM OTP-AM	H-240 S-323 HAMPER

This bill expands the law creating the right to a leave of absence for employees who are victims of violence by requiring that a returning employee be placed in the employee's former employment position or a position of equivalent employment status. The bill prohibits discrimination or retaliation against an employee for exercising the right to take a leave of absence or enforcing the provisions of the law and creates a private right of action to enforce the law, and to seek injunctive or equitable relief and compensatory damages.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-239)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-240)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes the bill and replaces it with changes to the penalties that may be assessed for violations of the employment leave for victims of violence law, as follows.

1. It increases the fine from up to \$200 per violation to up to \$1,000 per violation and provides that the fine applies only to denials of leave in violation of the law.
2. It provides that, for denial of leave in violation of the law, the employer must pay the affected individual an amount three times the total assessed fines.
3. It provides that, for termination in connection with exercising a right granted under the law, the affected individual may choose either to receive an amount three times the total assessed fines or reemployment with the employer with back wages.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "B" (S-323)

This amendment amends Committee Amendment "B" to strike the bill and replace it. Part A changes the penalties that may be assessed for violations of the employment leave for victims of violence law, as follows.

1. It increases the fine from up to \$200 per violation to up to \$1,000 per violation and provides that the fine applies only to denials of leave in violation of the law.
2. It provides that, for denial of leave in violation of the law, the employer must pay the affected individual an amount three times the total assessed fines.
3. It provides that, for termination in connection with exercising a right granted under the law, the affected individual may choose either to receive an amount three times the total assessed fines or reemployment with the employer with back wages.