

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 JUDICIARY

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 Judiciary

LD 953 **An Act To Implement Changes in the Family Division To Improve the Experience of Pro Se Litigants** **ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to make changes to the practice, procedures and administration of the Family Division of the District Court in order to improve the experience and effectiveness of pro se litigants in matters before that court.

LD 955 **An Act To Make Changes to Laws Governing Condominiums Regarding the Display of Signs** **PUBLIC 271**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MOONEN KATZ	OTP-AM ONTP	H-382

This bill prohibits a condominium association from including in its bylaws or declaration or deeds a restriction that prohibits a unit owner from displaying on the condominium property a sign that supports or opposes a political candidate or a referendum question for the period from six weeks prior to the election to one week after the election for that candidate or vote for that referendum is held.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-382)

This amendment applies the bill's restriction regarding display of signs that support or oppose a candidate for public office or a referendum question only to a condominium unit owner's private property.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 271 prohibits a condominium association from including in its bylaws or declaration or deeds a restriction that prohibits a unit owner from displaying on the condominium unit owner's private property a sign that supports or opposes a political candidate or a referendum question for the period from six weeks prior to the election to one week after the election for that candidate or vote for that referendum is held.

LD 962 **An Act To Require the Attorney General To Investigate the Death of a Person in Police Custody or in a Correctional Facility** **ONTP**

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

This bill requires the Attorney General to investigate as a criminal matter the death of a person who at the time of death was in police custody or was an inmate in a correctional facility.