

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

August 2015

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# STATE OF MAINE

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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 127<sup>th</sup> 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 127<sup>th</sup> 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 State and Local Government*

**LD 999**

**An Act To Ensure Proper Adoption of Rules by All Departments, Agencies and Boards**

**Died Between Houses**

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

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

This bill proposes to prohibit rule-making authority for rules having the force of law when the provisions of those rules are not enacted by the Legislature or are otherwise inconsistent with the legislative powers enumerated in the Constitution of Maine, Article IV.

As proposed in this bill, departments, agencies, boards, commissions and quasi-governmental entities may establish rules only for the purposes of performing the duties charged to them; any rules outside the scope of this authority must be submitted to the Legislature within one year of the effective date of this bill for enactment into law by the Legislature. Any such rules not enacted by the Legislature within two years of the effective date of this bill are considered void and without force of law.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-300)**

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee:

1. Strikes and replaces the bill with a resolve and changes the title;
2. Establishes the Commission on Rulemaking Oversight to study rule-making authority for independent state agencies;
3. Sets up the membership of the commission, which consists of 10 members, including four members of the Senate, four members of the House of Representatives, the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services or the commissioner's designee and a representative from the Governor's office appointed by the Governor;
4. Requires that the commission identify current rule-making authority and the statutory references that provide the authority for each independent state agency; categorize each independent state agency based on whether or not a department provides oversight of the independent state agency's rule-making process; and identify the department that provides oversight of the independent state agency's rule-making process for those independent state agencies overseen by a department;
5. Requires the commission to develop recommendations for any changes to routine technical rule-making authority of independent state agencies;
6. Requires the Legislative Council to provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and
7. Requires the commission to submit a report by December 2, 2015 with its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters.