

# 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.

<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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted private &amp; 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 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 1008 An Act To Extend Options for Publicly Funded Projects**

**Died Between  
Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUSHING BICKFORD	ONTP OTP	

This bill extends the provision of law regarding the award of public works contracts without regard to agreements with labor organizations by 10 years to October 1, 2025.

**LD 1012 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
To Increase the Length of Terms of Senators**

**ONTP**

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

This constitutional resolution increases the length of the terms of State Senators from two years to four years, beginning with the Senators elected in 2016 except that, in order to stagger the elections so that roughly half of the Senate is up for election every two years, Senators from odd-numbered districts will not begin serving a four-year term until the 2018 election.

**LD 1046 An Act To Penalize Legislators for Excessive Absences**

**PUBLIC 134**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER PIERCE J	OTP-AM ONTP	S-66

This bill requires that a member of the Legislature be penalized by having that member's salary reduced for each legislative day the member is absent without leave after five days of absence in the first regular session and after three days of absence in the second regular session, in an amount to be determined by the Legislative Council.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-66)**

This amendment requires the Legislative Council at the beginning of each Legislature to establish policies and procedures to record attendance for each legislative day and set the salary reduction mentioned in the bill for members who are absent without leave for more than five legislative days in the first regular session and for more than three legislative days in the second regular session.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 134 requires that a member of the Legislature be penalized by having that member's salary reduced for each legislative day the member is absent without leave for a specified number of legislative days. It requires the Legislative Council at the beginning of each Legislature to establish policies and procedures to record attendance for each legislative day and set the salary reduction for members who are absent without leave for more than five legislative days in the first regular session and for more than three legislative days in the second regular session.