

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

May 2016

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND 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 Second 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.

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 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 127th Legislature is July 29, 2016. 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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

LD 991 An Act To Amend Maine's Genetically Modified Food Products Labeling Law

Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY M SAVIELLO T	OTP-AM OTP-AM	H-596

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Maine's genetically modified food products labeling law includes a delay of the effective date of the law until mandatory labeling of genetically engineered food is adopted by at least five contiguous states including Maine. The law also includes an automatic repeal if mandatory labeling of genetically engineered food is not adopted by at least five contiguous states including Maine by January 1, 2018. This bill repeals both the delayed effective date and automatic repeal provisions, thereby making the law effective.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-596)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It strikes and replaces the bill.

This amendment extends by four years, from 2018 to 2022, the date before which five contiguous states, including Maine, have to adopt mandatory labeling of genetically engineered food in order for Maine's law to go into effect. If that contingency is not met, Maine's genetically modified food products labeling law is repealed.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-597)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It repeals the public law that enacted Maine's genetically modified food products labeling law, which only takes effect if mandatory labeling is adopted by at least five contiguous states including Maine.

This amendment instead enacts the labeling law contingent on approval by the voters in a referendum at the general election in November. This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1022 An Act To Protect the Future of Harness Racing

**PUBLIC 493
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAREAN D DIAMOND G	OTP-AM	H-377

This bill was reported out of committee in the prior session and then carried over on the Special Appropriations Committee Table.

This bill removes the provision of law that terminates certain payments of net slot machine income to the Fund to Encourage Racing at Maine's Commercial Tracks when all commercial tracks have obtained a license to operate slot machines. It also provides that if a commercial track ceases operation and is not immediately replaced by a commercial track in the same region that is owned by the same owner as the commercial track that ceased operation, all amounts in the fund must be disbursed to the remaining commercial tracks and to agricultural fairs based on days raced during extended meets up to a maximum of 100 days raced during extended meets per year and until such time as a new commercial track begins operation. A commercial track or agricultural fair receives a payment per race day equal to the quotient of the amount in the fund divided by 150. Any amount remaining in the fund after payments are made to commercial tracks and agricultural fairs must be transferred to the operating account of the

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Harness Racing Commission.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-377)

This amendment adds a process whereby, in the event of a natural disaster, a commercial track may repair, rebuild or relocate at the discretion of the State Harness Racing Commission. During any time that is granted by the commission to a commercial track to repair, rebuild or relocate, the distribution formula provided in the bill for the distribution of funds from the Fund to Encourage Racing at Maine's Commercial Tracks in the event of a track closure applies.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 493 removes the provision of law that terminates certain payments of net slot machine income to the Fund to Encourage Racing at Maine's Commercial Tracks when all commercial tracks have obtained a license to operate slot machines. It also provides that if a commercial track ceases operation and is not immediately replaced by a commercial track in the same region that is owned by the same owner as the commercial track that ceased operation, all amounts in the fund must be disbursed to the remaining commercial tracks and to agricultural fairs based on days raced during extended meets up to a maximum of 100 days raced during extended meets per year and until such time as a new commercial track begins operation. A commercial track or agricultural fair receives a payment per race day equal to the quotient of the amount in the fund divided by 150. Any amount remaining in the fund after payments are made to commercial tracks and agricultural fairs must be transferred to the operating account of the Harness Racing Commission.

Public Law 2015, chapter 493 also adds a process whereby, in the event of a natural disaster, a commercial track may repair, rebuild or relocate at the discretion of the State Harness Racing Commission. During any time that is granted by the commission to a commercial track to repair, rebuild or relocate, the distribution formula provided in the bill for the distribution of funds from the Fund to Encourage Racing at Maine's Commercial Tracks in the event of a track closure applies.

Public Law 2015, chapter 493 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 24, 2016.

LD 1178 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Maple Syrup Task Force ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLACK R DAVIS P	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill establishes the Maine Maple Promotion Board and creates its basic structure, core functions and duties.

LD 1326 An Act To Require Labeling of All Genetically Modified Products Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill defines "genetically modified product" as food containing genetically engineered material, genetically