

# 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 LABOR, COMMERCE,  
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development*

**LD 1140 An Act To Promote Economic Development**

**PUBLIC 224**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK HERBIG	OTP-AM ONTP	S-190

This bill increases the maximum loan amount available through the Economic Recovery Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. It takes effect only upon the receipt by the Economic Recovery Program Fund of an appropriation, general obligation bond funding or other funding in the amount of at least \$13,000,000.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-190)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and incorporates a fiscal note.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 224 increases the maximum loan amount available through the Economic Recovery Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. The law takes effect only upon the receipt by the Economic Recovery Program Fund of an appropriation, general obligation bond funding or other funding in the amount of at least \$13,000,000.

**LD 1154 An Act To Provide for the Establishment of Benefit Corporations**

**Veto Sustained**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HERBIG CUSHING	OTP-AM	H-363

This bill creates a statutory framework that allows a corporation to elect to become a benefit corporation by explicitly stating in its articles of incorporation a general benefit purpose or one or more specific benefit purposes, which are other than maximizing shareholder value. "General public benefit" means a material positive impact on society and the environment, taken as a whole, assessed against a 3rd-party standard, from the business and operations of the benefit corporation. A specific public benefit can be providing goods and services to underserved individuals and communities, the promotion of economic opportunities, protecting the environment, improving human health or other particular benefits to society or the environment. A benefit corporation may be subject to a benefit enforcement proceeding for failing to pursue or create a general public benefit or a specific public benefit as set forth in its articles of incorporation, or for a violation of any obligation, duty or standard of conduct imposed. A benefit corporation must make its annual benefit report available publicly and file it as an annual corporate report with the Secretary of State.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-363)**

This amendment removes the provision in the bill that requires a benefit corporation to file its annual benefit report with the Secretary of State. It also clarifies that there may be more than a single general public benefit.