

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 TRANSPORTATION

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 Transportation

LD 1175 An Act To Amend Maine's Motor Vehicle Statutes

PUBLIC 176

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARRY	OTP-AM	H-191

This bill:

1. Makes texting and handheld mobile telephone use while driving a traffic infraction for the purposes of Maine's commercial motor vehicle motor safety laws;
2. Makes a violation of federal regulations regarding rest breaks, logbook information and filing of drivers' records of duty status a traffic infraction for the purposes of Maine's commercial motor vehicle motor safety laws;
3. Requires vehicles operated in Maine to be equipped with brake lights;
4. Restricts persons operating motor vehicles from being able to view a television, screen or other device capable of receiving or showing visual content. For the purposes of the provision, "visual content" includes, but is not limited to, television broadcasts, recorded video and video streamed through electronic or other means. "Visual content" does not include content displayed on a device that was installed for the effective or safe operation of a motor vehicle or on a device used for global positioning or navigation;
5. Repeals the provision of law prohibiting persons from riding in a trailer that is being towed; and
6. Prohibits persons from attaching or displaying on a vehicle registration plate a registration validation device issued for another vehicle.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-191)

This amendment:

1. Modifies the provision of the bill regarding brake lights by requiring that all factory-installed brake lights must be operational and meet certain standards;
2. Replaces the provision of the bill that prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle if certain video equipment is visible to the operator. The amendment clarifies that video equipment relating to operation of the vehicle and video equipment used by law enforcement and emergency personnel may be visible to the vehicle operator; and
3. Removes the provision of the bill that repeals a law prohibiting persons from riding in a towed vehicle or trailer. It instead removes the prohibition on a person riding in a vehicle being towed by a wrecker or by a motor vehicle using a tow bar but preserves other prohibitions in current law.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 176:

1. Makes texting and handheld mobile telephone use while driving a traffic infraction for the purposes of Maine's commercial motor vehicle motor safety laws;
2. Makes a violation of federal regulations regarding rest breaks, logbook information and filing of drivers' records of duty status a traffic infraction for the purposes of Maine's commercial motor vehicle motor safety laws;

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

3. Requires that all factory-installed brake lights on a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer must be present and operating properly and meet certain standards;
4. Provides that a person may not operate a motor vehicle in which there is a television viewer, screen or other video device, other than an allowable device, that is receiving or showing video content visible to the operator. For the purposes of the provision, "visual content" includes, but is not limited to, television broadcasts, recorded video and video streamed through electronic or other means. "Visual content" does not include content displayed on a device that was installed for the effective or safe operation of a motor vehicle or on a device used for global positioning or navigation. The law also clarifies that video equipment relating to operation of the vehicle and video equipment used by law enforcement and emergency personnel may be visible to the vehicle operator; and
5. Allows a person to ride in a vehicle being towed by a wrecker or by a motor vehicle using a tow bar; and
6. Prohibits persons from attaching or displaying on a vehicle registration plate a registration validation device issued for another vehicle.

LD 1273 *Resolve, To Create a License Plate To Recognize the Bicentennial of the State* **RESOLVE 23**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON	OTP-AM	S-99

This resolve creates a commemorative simulated motor vehicle registration plate in celebration of Maine's bicentennial. The Secretary of State is directed to design and issue the plate, which may be displayed beginning January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020 covering the front registration plate. Revenue generated by the sale of the plate in excess of the cost of production and issuance will be given to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-99)

This amendment provides that \$16 of the \$25 fee for the State of Maine Bicentennial commemorative plate goes to the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council rather than the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 23 creates a commemorative simulated motor vehicle registration plate in celebration of Maine's bicentennial. The Secretary of State is directed to design and issue the plate, which may be displayed beginning January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020 covering the front registration plate. The resolve provides that \$16 of the \$25 fee for the State of Maine Bicentennial commemorative plate goes to the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council.

LD 1301 *An Act To Improve the Safety of Vulnerable Users in Traffic and To Clarify the Responsibilities of Bicyclists and Pedestrians* **PUBLIC 164**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK RYKERSON	OTP-AM	S-177

This bill amends the motor vehicle laws as follows.

1. It creates a vulnerable user law to protect people on public ways who are not in motor vehicles. A "vulnerable user" is defined as a pedestrian, a person performing emergency work or a person riding or using a nonmotorized