

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 AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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 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 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 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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

LD 1247

An Act To Release a Restriction on 2 Parcels of Former State Land in Greenbush Currently Owned by Anita P. Haskell

P & S 7

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUCHESNE SAVIELLO	OTP	

This bill rescinds the statutory restriction of only agricultural or forestry purposes on two parcels of former state land in Greenbush currently owned by Anita P. Haskell and directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to issue a deed to each parcel to Anita P. Haskell releasing the restriction on those parcels. Anita P. Haskell and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are required to agree that the State must be held harmless regarding any and all claims related to the property and the ownership of the property by the State and any previous owners. It also requires that the release of the deed restriction and hold harmless clause become part of the deed and bind all successors in title. The bill also requires that Anita P. Haskell pay all legal costs associated with the release of the deed restriction and the hold harmless agreement. The bill also requires, pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 7 rescinds the statutory restriction of only agricultural or forestry purposes on two parcels of former state land in Greenbush currently owned by Anita P. Haskell and directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to issue a deed to each parcel to Anita P. Haskell releasing the restriction on those parcels. Anita P. Haskell and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are required to agree that the State must be held harmless regarding any and all claims related to the property and the ownership of the property by the State and any previous owners. It requires that the release of the deed restriction and hold harmless clause become part of the deed and bind all successors in title. It also requires that Anita P. Haskell pay all legal costs associated with the release of the deed restriction and the hold harmless agreement.

LD 1284

An Act To Expand the Local Foods Economy

Died Between Houses

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

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to administer programs to support the expansion and coordination of the use of fresh Maine foods in aggregated and institutional markets, including school food service programs. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is directed to provide grants under the agricultural development grant program for the purpose of conducting market feasibility studies and developing business plans for local food infrastructure operations in Maine to connect and enhance relationships between fresh food producers in Maine and aggregated and institutional markets, including school food service programs, and food purveyors. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may not award a local foods grant unless the applicant provides matching funds in an amount that is no less than 50 percent of the grant amount. The department is also directed to provide loans under the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund to applicants in diverse geographic areas in the State for the purpose of establishing local food infrastructure operations located in Maine. Prior to awarding a local food infrastructure loan, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to determine that the potential overall impact of a proposal on Maine's agricultural economy and industry is beneficial to and in the best interest of the State. The bill also establishes the Maine Food Infrastructure Advisory Committee, which includes representatives of statewide and regional organizations involved in supporting agriculture, public health, the environment and the state economy, including