

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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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 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

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

representatives of the member entities of the farm-to-school work group established by Resolve 2009, chapter 106.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-239)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 1291 An Act To Promote Food Self-sufficiency for the People of the State

PUBLIC 347

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HICKMAN SAVIELLO	OTP-AM	H-447 S-330 HAMPER

This bill:

1. Directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in coordination with various state agencies, to develop and administer an agricultural jobs network linking farms and facilities that process agricultural products grown in the State with available workers who are involved in farming or a local food industry or who are required to perform community service;
2. Directs the department, in coordination with various state agencies, to develop an educational marketing campaign to promote food self-sufficiency by encouraging the public to grow gardens, to raise farm animals and to preserve garden-grown food
3. Requires the department, to the extent practicable, to purchase food grown, harvested, prepared, processed or produced in the State when purchasing food for an emergency or supplemental food program for elderly or low-income persons; and
4. Grants municipalities, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the authority to regulate by ordinance the direct producer-to-customer exchange of all food grown, harvested, prepared, processed or produced in the municipality.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-447)

This amendment strikes language from the bill that allows a municipality to regulate by ordinance the direct producer-to-customer exchange of all food grown, harvested, prepared, processed or produced in the municipality.

The amendment clarifies the intent of the bill by requiring the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to use existing programs and resources in carrying out the provisions of the bill.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-330)

This amendment replaces the appropriations and allocations section to reduce funding related to a part-time Planning and Research Assistant position.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 347 directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in coordination with various state agencies, to develop and administer an agricultural jobs network linking farms and facilities that process agricultural products grown in the State with available workers who are involved in farming or a local food industry or who are required to perform community service and to develop an educational marketing campaign to promote food self-sufficiency by encouraging the public to grow gardens, to raise farm animals and to preserve garden-grown food. This bill also requires the department, to the extent practicable, to purchase food grown,