

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 LABOR, COMMERCE,
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

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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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

stimulate innovation in the State by increasing the availability of collaborative workspace environments and address a regional market demand for affordable work environments that support communication, information sharing and networking opportunities. The fund will match public and private funds to create collaborative workspaces in order to foster innovative communities and spur creative business growth and economic activity. The law includes an appropriations and allocations section that provides for a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation to the fund for fiscal year 2015-16 and fiscal year 2016-17.

LD 1333 An Act To Ensure Economic Stability in Washington County ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BURNS TUELL	ONTP	

This bill provides ongoing funds to the Washington County Development Authority for the rehabilitation and renovation of the former Cutler naval base in Washington County, including but not limited to costs associated with project management, grant writing, bookkeeping, oversight, maintenance and support.

LD 1345 An Act To Provide Funding for Incubators for Business Start-ups ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FECTEAU DUTREMBLE	ONTP	

This bill enacts the Small Business Incubator Program under the direction of the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide loans, loan guarantees and grants for the establishment, operation and administration of small business incubators in Maine. It also establishes a small business incubator tax credit to provide incentives to Maine taxpayers to make contributions of private funds to be used to establish small business incubators.

LD 1351 An Act To Ensure that Membership of Public Employees in Unions is Voluntary ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STETKIS VOLK	ONTP	

This bill amends the State's labor laws to ensure that each public sector union represents only those public employees who voluntarily are members of that union.

This bill also requires a public employee union annually to determine or certify the bargaining agent for that union.

LD 1353 An Act To Prohibit Mandatory Membership in a Union or Payment of Agency Fees as a Condition of Employment ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUSHING WARD	ONTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

This bill prohibits a person from being required to join a labor organization or pay any labor organization dues or fees as a condition of employment or continuation of employment, notwithstanding any state law to the contrary. A violation is a Class D crime and is also subject to civil damages and injunctive relief. The Attorney General is responsible for enforcement and is required to prosecute all violations.

LD 1358 An Act To Support Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Maine through the Start Maine Up Program ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT HERBIG	ONTP	

This bill establishes the Start Maine Up Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development to encourage and promote economic development by providing tax-free economic incentives for approved businesses that create operations in, expand within or relocate in designated areas of vacant land located at state university campuses or community college campuses in the State as long as the businesses demonstrate future positive community and economic benefits for the State. The department is responsible for administering the program in conjunction with the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College System.

LD 1361 An Act To Promote Minimum Wage Consistency Died Between Houses

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

This bill prohibits a municipality or any other political subdivision of the State from enacting an ordinance governing the minimum wage that an employer must pay an employee.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-142)

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

LD 1364 An Act To Expand Opportunities for Economic Development in Maine Died Between Houses

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

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing Pine Tree Development Zones.

1. Current law authorizes Pine Tree Development Zone businesses whose primary purpose is to support the State's working waterfront to apply for adjustments based on a catastrophic occurrence. This bill eliminates the restriction that the business be within the working waterfront industry, and allows such affected businesses to apply for an extension of their certification period of up to two years. This bill authorizes the Department of Economic and Community Development, after consultation with the Governor, to grant extensions of certification.