

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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**

August 2015

STAFF:

NATALIE HAYNES, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
HENRY FOUTS, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

MEMBERS:

SEN. AMY F. VOLK, CHAIR
SEN. ANDRE E. CUSHING III
SEN. JOHN L. PATRICK

REP. ERIN D. HERBIG, CHAIR
REP. PAUL E. GILBERT
REP. ANNE-MARIE MASTRACCIO
REP. DILLON BATES
REP. RYAN M. FECTEAU
REP. LAWRENCE E. LOCKMAN
REP. SUSAN M. W. AUSTIN
REP. JOEL R. STETKIS
REP. KARLETON S. WARD
REP. JAMES J. CAMPBELL, SR.

STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

- 2. Current law defines a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone employee as an employee for whom group health insurance is provided. This bill eliminates the requirement that group health insurance be provided.
- 3. Current law defines a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone employee as one whose income is greater than the most recent annual per capita personal income in the county in which the qualified employee is employed. Under this bill, the income of a qualified employee is greater than the average weekly wage for the most recent calendar year as derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. The calculation of the average weekly wage must include data from the counties of Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo and Washington.
- 4. It amends the laws governing employment tax increment financing reimbursement to reflect the revised definition of "qualified employee" under the Pine Tree Development Zone laws.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-198)

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

LD 1371

An Act To Encourage Greater Efficiency in the Unemployment Insurance System

Died Between Houses

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

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing the Maine Unemployment Insurance Commission. It provides that:

- 1. The members of the commission who are representatives of employers and labor are employed on a per diem basis in the amount of \$100 for up to four hours of services provided in relation to hearings and \$100 for each consecutive period of up to four hours of services provided in relation to hearings thereafter, with mileage and tolls reimbursed at the legislative rate pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2;
- 2. The Governor may remove a member of the commission for inefficiency, willful neglect of duty or malfeasance in office with the review and concurrence of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters upon hearing in executive session or by impeachment. Before removing a member, the Governor must notify the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the removal and the reasons for the removal; and
- 3. The chair of the commission may render preliminary or ancillary decisions related to processing of commission cases.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-189)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.