

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 STATE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

August 2015

STAFF:

ALYSON MAYO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

MEMBERS:

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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.

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unless one of five specific conditions exist, and it requires the Governor to provide certain information upon delaying or forgoing issuance of a bond.

- 2. It eliminates the requirement that registered bonds bear the facsimile signature of the Governor.
- 3. It requires the Treasurer of State to issue bonds described in Public Law 2009, chapter 414, Part E, section 6, as amended by Public Law 2009, chapter 645, Part J, section 3, and Public Law 2011, chapter 696, section 6 and ratified by the voters of the State in statewide elections held in November 2010 and November 2012, respectively.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-247)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It removes the two sections of the bill that require the issuance of specific general obligation bonds and instead states that the bill applies to all general obligation bonds ratified by the voters but as yet unissued as well as all future general obligation bonds ratified by the voters.

LD 1390 An Act To Amend the Boundaries of the Capitol Area

**PUBLIC 168
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WILLETTE TURNER	OTP-AM	S-179

This bill redefines the boundaries of the Capitol Area to exclude property located northerly of Capitol Street and westerly of Sewall Street in the City of Augusta. The greater part of the property excluded by this bill is occupied by the Department of Transportation's former motor transport facility. This bill will expedite the sale of the motor transport property by removing some of the restrictions imposed by the Capitol Planning Commission and making the property more attractive to potential business developers.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-179)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 168 redefines the boundaries of the Capitol Area to exclude property located northerly of Capitol Street and westerly of Sewall Street in the City of Augusta. The greater part of the property excluded is occupied by the Department of Transportation's former motor transport facility. Public Law 2015, chapter 168 will expedite the sale of the motor transport property by removing some of the restrictions imposed by the Capitol Planning Commission and making the property more attractive to potential business developers.

Public Law 2015, chapter 168 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 12, 2015.

LD 1395 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee To Ensure Legislative Review of Reports Submitted by Quasi-independent State Agencies

PUBLIC 253

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-298

This bill seeks to enhance legislative oversight of quasi-independent state entities by ensuring that joint standing committees of jurisdiction are monitoring the entities' compliance with requirements in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, sections 12022 and 12023, and alerting the Government Oversight Committee to any concerns identified. The statutory requirements address expectations for quasi-independent state entities with regard to procurement

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practices, payments for membership dues and fees, gifts, donations and sponsorships and travel, meal and entertainment expenses. This bill provides for review of those reports by those committees and their communicating to the Government Oversight Committee the results of the reviews and areas identified that should be reviewed in more depth.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-298)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 253 seeks to enhance legislative oversight of quasi-independent state entities by ensuring that joint standing committees of jurisdiction are monitoring the entities' compliance with requirements in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, sections 12022 and 12023, and alerting the Government Oversight Committee to any concerns identified. The statutory requirements address expectations for quasi-independent state entities with regard to procurement practices, payments for membership dues and fees, gifts, donations and sponsorships and travel, meal and entertainment expenses. Public Law 2015, chapter 253 provides for review of those reports by those committees and their communicating to the Government Oversight Committee the results of the reviews and areas identified that should be reviewed in more depth.

**LD 1417 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Accepted Majority
To Change the Selection Process for the Attorney General (ONTP) Report**

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

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to change the selection process for the Attorney General. Currently, the Attorney General is selected by the Legislature. This resolution proposes that the Governor nominate and appoint the Attorney General, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-392)

This amendment is the minority report and changes the effective date the amendment becomes part of the Constitution of Maine from the date of the proclamation, as stated in the resolution, to December 1, 2016 to allow the current Attorney General, who was elected by the Legislature, to finish the term.

**LD 1418 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Accepted Majority
To Provide for a Lieutenant Governor and Change the Line of (ONTP) Report
Succession for Governor**

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

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to eliminate the position of Secretary of State and replace it with the position of Lieutenant Governor, to be elected by popular vote and on the same ballot as is the Governor. Under this resolution, a person serving as Lieutenant Governor:

1. Is limited to serving two consecutive terms;
2. Is subject to the same eligibility requirements as is the Governor;