

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

May 2016

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND 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 Second 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 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 July 29, 2016. 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 Insurance and Financial Services

The law also provides a tax credit to employers providing a qualified short-term disability income protection plan or a qualified long-term disability income protection plan. Disability income protection plans that do not qualify for the tax credit may still be authorized to be issued in the State by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance. The law provides that an employer is entitled to a tax credit of \$30 for each employee enrolled in a group disability income protection plan after January 1, 2017, as long as the employee was not covered under a disability income protection plan offered by the employing unit in the tax year immediately preceding the year in which the credit is first available. The credit must be claimed by a taxpayer in the first tax year during which the taxpayer is eligible to claim the credit and may be taken for no more than three consecutive tax years. The amount of the credit may not exceed the amount of the tax due and that unused credit may not be carried over or carried back.

LD 1545

An Act To Amend the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act

PUBLIC 404

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITTEMORE R BECK H	OTP-AM	S-393

This bill repeals the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act, effective January 1, 2019. Prior to the repeal, it requires the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over insurance and financial services matters to review and evaluate the transitional reinsurance program operating in the State between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2016 pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and federal regulations adopted pursuant to that Act and the differences between the transitional reinsurance program and the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association and recommend to the Superintendent of Insurance whether the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association should resume operations. The committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature based on the committee's evaluation.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-393)

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. The amendment extends the suspension of the operations of the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association for one year, until December 31, 2017, and removes statutory provisions that are no longer necessary given the extended suspension. The amendment also directs the Superintendent of Insurance to make a recommendation before February 15, 2017 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial services matters relating to the continued operation or dissolution of the association.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 404 extends the suspension of the operations of the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association for one year, until December 31, 2017, and removes statutory provisions that are no longer necessary given the extended suspension. The law also directs the Superintendent of Insurance to make a recommendation before February 15, 2017 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial services matters relating to the continued operation or dissolution of the association.