

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND 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

127<sup>TH</sup> 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 Second Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> 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 127<sup>th</sup> 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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development*

This bill changes the minimum number of Citizen Trade Policy Commission members necessary to hold a meeting from 11 to nine and the minimum number of commission members necessary for purposes of voting from nine to seven.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 400 changes the minimum number of members of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission necessary to hold a meeting from 11 to nine and the minimum number of commission members necessary for purposes of voting from nine to seven.

**LD 1549**

### **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Oversight of and Responsibility for the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund**

**PUBLIC 412**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PETERSON M KATZ R	OTP-AM	H-536

This bill changes the entity with whom funds from the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program must be deposited from the Finance Authority of Maine to the Treasurer of State. The bill also eliminates the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Board and authorizes the Treasurer of State to select a program administrator both to administer the program and to decide whether to approve applications for loan funds. The bill authorizes the Treasurer of State to select a new program administrator through an RFP process if loan performance is poor. The bill permits, but does not require, the program administrator to establish an advisory board and to select board members, of whom a majority must be Maine citizens with disabilities.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-536)**

This amendment replaces the bill. It authorizes the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund Board to contract with appropriate entities, including a financial services provider, for assistance in administering the program. The board or financial services provider, if one has been selected, may approve or deny a loan application based on its determination whether the application meets the purposes of the fund and satisfies the underwriting guidelines approved by the board. Individuals whose applications are denied by the financial services provider may appeal to the board for reconsideration.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 412 authorizes the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund Board to contract with appropriate entities, including a financial services provider, for assistance in administering the program. The board or financial services provider, if one has been selected, may approve or deny a loan application based on a determination whether the application meets the purposes of the fund and satisfies the underwriting guidelines approved by the board. Individuals whose applications are denied by the financial services provider may appeal to the board for reconsideration.

**LD 1553 An Act To Improve the Workers' Compensation System**

**PUBLIC 469**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	S-399

This bill makes the following changes to the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.

1. It transfers the predetermination of independent contractor status process to the Department of Professional and