

# 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.

**LD 1607**

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Affordable Housing Working Group**

**PUBLIC 424**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-557

This bill was reported by the committee pursuant to Public Law 2015, chapter 267, Part QQQQ, section 1 and then referred back to the committee for processing in the normal course.

This bill implements the recommendations of the Maine Affordable Housing Working Group. It directs the Maine State Housing Authority and municipal housing authorities to create a single, statewide application and waiting list for so-called Section 8 housing and to ensure that the application can be filled out online. The bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that the application can be used by individuals and families to apply for the federal Shelter Plus Care program and the state Bridging Rental Assistance Program. The bill further directs the Maine State Housing Authority to examine options to increase access to affordable housing for families with incomes at or below 30% of the area median income and to establish a rental assistance pilot program. The authority must submit a report by January 15, 2019 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters on the authority's progress in increasing access to affordable housing and the extent to which the pilot program achieves success in meeting its goals.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-557)**

This amendment clarifies that individuals or families applying for so-called Section 8 rental assistance may use that rental assistance application or an addendum to that application if they choose to also apply for rental assistance from the Bridging Rental Assistance Program or the federal Shelter Plus Care program.

The amendment requires that the Maine State Housing Authority submit a preliminary report by February 1, 2017 on the authority's progress in increasing access to affordable housing and the extent to which the rental assistance pilot program achieves success in meeting its goals.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 424 implements the recommendations of the Maine Affordable Housing Working Group. It directs the Maine State Housing Authority and municipal housing authorities to create a single, statewide application and waiting list for so-called Section 8 housing and to ensure that the application can be filled out online. The Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services must ensure that individuals or families applying for Section 8 rental assistance may use the new application or an addendum to that application if they choose to apply for rental assistance from the federal Shelter Plus Care program or the state Bridging Rental Assistance Program. The Maine State Housing Authority must also examine options to increase access to affordable housing for families with incomes at or below 30% of the area median income and establish a rental assistance pilot program. The authority must submit a preliminary report by February 1, 2017 and a final report by January 15, 2019 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters detailing the authority's progress in increasing access to affordable housing and the extent to which the pilot program achieves success in meeting its goals.