

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
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE,
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

May 2016

STAFF:

HENRY FOUTS, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JANET STOCCO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

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

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 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

LD 1661 An Act To Raise the Minimum Wage

**Died On
Adjournment**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill was not referred to committee.

This initiated bill raises the minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour in 2017 and by \$1.00 per hour each year after that until it is \$12.00 per hour in 2020. The minimum wage then increases at the same rate as the cost of living. The minimum wage for workers who receive tips increases to \$5.00 per hour in 2017 and then by \$1.00 per hour each year until it matches the minimum wage for all other workers, which occurs no sooner than 2024.

House Amendment "A" (H-569)

This amendment amends the bill as follows:

1. It raises the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour in 2017, instead of the \$9.00 per hour proposed in the bill;
2. It raises the minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour in 2018, instead of the \$10.00 per hour proposed in the bill;
3. It raises the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour in 2019, instead of the \$11.00 per hour proposed in the bill;
4. It raises the minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour in 2020, instead of the \$12.00 per hour proposed in the bill;
5. It strikes language in the bill requiring that, beginning in 2021, the minimum hourly wage must be increased by the increase in the cost of living;
6. It restores language that limits the increase in the State's minimum wage in response to an increase in the federal minimum wage to no more than \$1 more per hour; and
7. It strikes language proposed in the bill to increase the minimum wage paid to workers who receive tips.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1686 An Act To Amend the Finance Authority of Maine Act

PUBLIC 504

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

VOLK A
HERBIG E

OTP-AM

S-463

This bill expands the Finance Authority of Maine's authority to issue revenue obligation securities to include the issuance of revenue obligation securities pertaining to financing assistance for energy generating system projects. The bill amends the definition of "energy generating system project" in the Finance Authority of Maine Act to include energy generating systems owned, in whole or in part, by a limited liability company as well as the wires, cables and other equipment necessary to deliver electricity from the generating facility to the transmission system. Under the bill, the authority may not issue revenue obligation securities for either an energy distribution system project or an energy generating system project unless the authority has issued a certificate of approval for the project before January 1, 2020.

Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

Committee Amendment "A" (S-463)

This amendment clarifies the criteria for issuance of a certificate of approval to an energy generating system project by the Finance Authority of Maine.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 504 permits the Finance Authority of Maine to issue revenue obligation securities for energy generating system projects. The law amends the definition of "energy generating system project" in the Finance Authority of Maine Act to include energy generating systems owned, in whole or in part, by a limited liability company as well as the wires, cables and other equipment necessary to deliver electricity from the generating facility to the transmission system.

The authority may not issue revenue obligation securities for either an energy distribution system project or an energy generating system project unless the authority has issued a certificate of approval for the project before January 1, 2020. The law clarifies the criteria for issuance of a certificate of approval to an energy generating system project.

LD 1692 An Act To Amend and Clarify the Laws Governing the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY S TUCKER R	OTP ONTP	

Current law provides that the state income tax withholding attributable to employees at the Brunswick Naval Air Station is placed into a fund and distributed equally to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority and Southern Maine Community College.

This bill clarifies that the funds distributed to Southern Maine Community College must be used for the support of educational programs or employment services directly related to target business sector businesses at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. This bill also requires the authority and the college jointly to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters annually regarding the use of the funds allocated to the college.

LD 1695 An Act To Raise the Minimum Wage Incrementally to \$10 Per Hour in 2020 Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUSHING A		

This bill was not referred to committee.

This bill raises the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour in 2017 and by \$0.50 per hour each year after that until it is \$10.00 per hour in 2020.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-527)

This amendment replaces the bill. It raises the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour beginning October 1, 2016 and by \$.50 per hour each year after that until it is \$10.00 per hour in 2019. It adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause.