

# 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 ENERGY, UTILITIES  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

May 2016

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# STATE OF MAINE

127<sup>TH</sup> 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 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 Energy, Utilities and Technology**

recommendations. Lastly, it removes language that requires the commission to be funded by federal funds provided by the United States Department of Energy.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2015, chapter 85 establishes the Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry. Membership of the commission consists of Legislators, a wood harvester and representatives of the biomass energy generation industry, a sawmill, the pulp and paper industry and users of biomass energy. The commission is required to examine and evaluate the economic, environmental and energy benefits of Maine's biomass resources, as well as public policy and economic proposals to create and maintain a sustainable future for the Maine biomass industry, and determine whether the environmental, economic and energy benefits of biomass support updating the State's energy policy to strengthen and increase the role that biomass and the forest products industry play throughout the State. The commission is required to report the results of its study and any recommendations by December 6, 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

**LD 1703**

**An Act To Make a Technical Correction to Public Law 2015, Chapter 483**

**PUBLIC 513  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOODSOME D		

This bill was not referred to committee.

This bill makes a technical correction to Public Law 2015, chapter 483. This bill removes an unnecessary reference to an inapplicable section of law, and clarifies that the transfer of funds to a cost recovery fund occurs after the transfer to the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1536. The bill also includes a retroactivity clause making the technical correction applicable retroactively to April 16, 2016.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 513 makes a technical correction to Public Law 2015, chapter 483. This law removes an unnecessary reference to an inapplicable section of law, and clarifies that the transfer of funds to a cost recovery fund occurs after the transfer to the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1536. This law also includes a retroactivity clause making the technical correction applicable retroactively to April 16, 2016.

Public Law 2015, chapter 513 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 3, 2016.