

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST 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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*Committee member for a portion of the session

STATE OF MAINE

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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 First Regular Session of the 128th 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 FINAL 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 128th Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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

Committee Amendment "A" (H-43)

This amendment, which is the majority report, replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Workers' Compensation Board to study shortcomings in workers' compensation insurance coverage for emergency first responders and to report its findings and proposed solutions to the joint standing committee by December 15, 2017. The joint standing committee has authority to report out a bill in response to this report in the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 84 An Act To Clarify the Contracts Used for Automobile Sales ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D MASTRACCIO A	ONTP	

This bill requires a motor vehicle dealer to provide a buyer of a motor vehicle with a plain language written summary explaining: the vehicle purchase price; each charge, tax and fee pertinent to the agreement; all interest and other financing costs to be paid pursuant to a financing agreement with or facilitated by the dealer; and the total of all costs, including the total cost over the life of a financing agreement with or facilitated by the dealer. If the dealer fails to obtain the buyer's written acknowledgment on the summary, the sales agreement is void and the buyer may recover all of his or her costs from the dealer.

LD 86 An Act To Protect Worker Wages and Benefits INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D KUMIEGA W	OTP ONTP	

Current law provides that an employee whose employment has ceased is entitled to earned wages from the employer, including unused vacation time when paid vacation was included in the terms of employment, upon a reasonable time after that employee makes a demand for such payment from the employer, and that the employee may bring a civil action against an employer that does not comply with this requirement.

This bill eliminates the requirement that the employee make a demand for the earned compensation with the employer. Instead, earned wages must be paid by the employer within a reasonable amount of time after the cessation of employment, regardless of whether the employee has made a demand for the wages.

LD 114 An Act To Increase the Number of Suboxone Prescribers ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MADIGAN C BREEN C	ONTP	

This bill requires all osteopathic and allopathic physicians and physician assistants whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid medication to apply to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration for authority to treat opioid dependency using buprenorphine products. The bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to increase reimbursement rates under the MaineCare program for buprenorphine-medication-assisted substance abuse

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

treatment including prescriptions and accompanying services by 30% no later than January 1, 2018.

LD 130 An Act To Provide Funding for Costs Associated with Requiring the Licensing of Midwives

Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK A ESPLING E	OTP-AM	S-9

This bill includes Other Special Revenue Funds allocations totaling \$76,365 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$26,985 in fiscal year 2018-19 to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation for the costs associated with requiring individuals practicing midwifery in the State to be licensed by January 1, 2020.

This bill also includes corresponding transfers of funds from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Licensing and Enforcement, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation in fiscal years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 to support these costs.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-9)

This amendment eliminates the transfers of funds from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Licensing and Enforcement, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation in fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20 due to anticipated licensing fee revenues from the licensure of individuals practicing midwifery in the State. This amendment also reduces the Other Special Revenue Funds allocations in fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19 to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation based on decreased estimates of the costs of the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers associated with establishing the new licensing requirements.

The revised appropriations and allocations in this amendment are based on an assumption that the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers will be ready to accept and process applications for licensure of individuals practicing midwifery during fiscal year 2017-18 and that 20 individuals will submit applications and fees before June 30, 2018. This amendment also assumes that an additional 16 midwives will apply for licensure in fiscal year 2018-19. The resulting licensing fees will increase dedicated revenues to the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers by an estimated \$13,920 in fiscal year 2017-18 and an estimated \$24,636 in fiscal year 2018-19.

The substance of this bill was included in Part VVVVVV of the Biennial Budget, Public Law 2017, chapter 284 (LD 390).

LD 132 An Act To Authorize Podiatrists To Perform Certain Routine Procedures

PUBLIC 14

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

This bill amends the definition of "practice of podiatric medicine" to authorize a podiatrist to take the medical histories of and perform physical examinations of the podiatrist's preoperative patients.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 14 amends the definition of "practice of podiatric medicine" to authorize a podiatrist to take the medical histories of and perform physical examinations of the podiatrist's preoperative patients.