

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 TRANSPORTATION

August 2017

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STATE OF MAINE

128TH 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 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 Transportation

Current law allows a temporary sign, including, but not limited to, a sign bearing a political message relating to an election, primary or referendum, to be placed in the public right-of-way for a maximum of six weeks per calendar year. This bill allows a temporary sign to be placed in the public right-of-way for a maximum of twelve weeks per calendar year, as long as that sign is not displayed for more than six weeks before the event to which the sign relates. This bill also removes the requirement that temporary signs be labeled with the name and address of the entity that placed the sign within the public way and the time period for which the sign will be maintained.

LD 120 An Act To Impose a Three-month Loss of a Driver's License for Driving While Texting ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY S COLLINS R	ONTP	

This bill increases the penalty for text messaging while operating a motor vehicle by requiring the Secretary of State to suspend the person's driver's license for 90 days for each offense.

LD 134 An Act To Allow the Secretary of State To Issue Licenses Pending Receipt of Necessary Paperwork from the Driver Education and Evaluation Program ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAKER J	ONTP	

This bill allows a person who has completed the Department of Health and Human Services driver education and evaluation program to receive a driver's license upon providing documentation of completion of the program before official notice of completion is received by the Secretary of State directly from the Department of Health and Human Services. This provision is repealed on December 31, 2017.

LD 137 An Act To Increase the Safety of Motorists on Public Ways ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CYRWAY S TUELL W	ONTP	

This bill prohibits the operation of a motor vehicle with snow or ice on the front windshield or a side wing mirror or side or rear window that obstructs the operator's clear view of the way or an intersecting way. A violation is subject to a fine of \$175.

LD 154 An Act To Reform Maine's Motor Vehicle Inspection Guidelines Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CEBRA R	ONTP OTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

This bill provides that a motor vehicle may not fail its annual inspection for aesthetic reasons or for minor mechanical defects. A vehicle may fail the inspection only for defects that reasonably affect the safety of the vehicle.

LD 168 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Install a Caution Light in New Sweden

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T	ONTP OTP-AM	

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to install a blinking yellow caution light at the intersection of Route 161 and Station Road in the Town of New Sweden.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-5)

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the resolve.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 171 An Act To Add the Air Medal as an Option for a Special Commemorative Decal on Special Veterans Registration Plates

PUBLIC 8

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T MAKER J	OTP	

This bill allows the Secretary of State to issue special commemorative decals for use with special veterans registration plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces, was honorably discharged and was awarded the Air Medal.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 8 allows the Secretary of State to issue special commemorative decals for use with special veterans registration plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces, was honorably discharged and was awarded the Air Medal.

LD 172 An Act To Improve Officer Safety at Roadside Incidents

PUBLIC 21

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HARRINGTON M VOLK A	OTP OTP-AM	

This bill allows police vehicles to use red emergency lights. The red emergency lights may comprise up to 50% of the emergency lights used on the police vehicle.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-9)

This amendment, which is the minority report, strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment provides that emergency lights on a police vehicle may include one blue light mounted facing toward the rear of the vehicle so that the light is primarily visible to approaching traffic from the rear only.