

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**

August 2017

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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

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It incorporates a fiscal note.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to the next special or regular session of the 128th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, S.P. 601.

LD 313 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Prior Employees of the Workers' Compensation Board PUBLIC 29

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUSHING A STEWART H	OTP-AM	S-23

Under current law, an advocate or advocate attorney employed by the Workers' Compensation Board may not represent before the board any insurer, self-insurer or third-party administrator for two years after terminating employment with the board. This bill repeals that prohibition.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-23)

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the period for which a former advocate or advocate attorney with the Workers' Compensation Board must refrain from representing before the board any insurer, self-insurer or third-party administrator from two years to one year. The amendment also eliminates this restriction for any person who has worked for four or more years as an advocate or attorney advocate.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 29 changes the period for which a former advocate or advocate attorney with the Workers' Compensation Board must refrain from representing before the board any insurer, self-insurer or third-party administrator from two years to one year and it eliminates this restriction for any person who has worked for four or more years as an advocate or attorney advocate.

LD 367 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee To Develop a Long-range Strategic Plan for Economic Improvement in the State CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-493

This bill provides additional clarity, requirements and resources for the Maine Economic Growth Council's efforts to fulfill its current statutory mandate to develop, monitor and maintain a long-range strategic economic improvement plan for the State. It also includes provisions to support the State's achievement of the goals and objectives in that plan by establishing requirements for the Governor, Legislature and agencies with relevant programs and activities to consider the long-range strategic economic improvement plan and provide information to the Maine Economic Growth Council at the request of the council. This bill would increase the annual General Fund appropriation to the Maine Economic Growth Council from its current \$55,000 to \$175,000 and would provide a one-time additional appropriation of \$150,000 for development of the initial plan in order to meet the timelines required in this bill.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-493)

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It specifies that membership of the Maine Economic Growth Council must include members with expertise in both large and small business.