

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
128<sup>TH</sup> 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

128<sup>TH</sup> 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 128<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 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 128<sup>th</sup> 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***

**LD 958      An Act To Enact the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DION M	REFERRED TO LCED	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to adopt a law that is based on the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act, a copy of the text of which may be found here:

<http://legislature.maine.gov/uploads/originals/uniform-emergency-volunteer-health-practitioners-act.pdf>. In addition to any substantive changes to the uniform act that may be adopted by the Legislature, the basic numbering system, the mechanical structure and the internal organization of the law recommended by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws will be altered to conform to the numbering, structure and organization of the Maine Revised Statutes.

This bill was originally referred to the Health and Human Services Committee, which reported the bill with a recommendation that it be re-referred to the Labor, Commerce Research and Economic Development Committee; the bill was so referred. This bill was then carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1138.

**LD 962      An Act Regarding Unemployment Compensation for Workers Involved in Certain Seasonal Occupations      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T HERBIG E	ONTP	

This bill amends the unemployment compensation laws to provide that an individual who works in the construction industry has worked for at least 20 weeks in the 12 months prior to making a claim for benefits and has a date to return to work for a previous employer is not required to engage in work search efforts. It also provides that an individual who works in the logging industry is not required to engage in work search efforts from April 1st to June 1st.

**LD 970      An Act To End Homelessness by Expanding Housing Support Services      Veto Sustained**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JORGENSEN E DION M	OTP-AM ONTP	H-209 S-330    HAMPER J

This bill establishes the Housing First Assistance Program. The program is established in and administered by the Maine State Housing Authority. The authority is required to work with emergency shelters and other crisis responders in the neediest areas of the State to provide permanent housing and support services for chronically homeless individuals and families and to homeless individuals addicted to opiates. The program must meet the core elements for a "Housing First" program as delineated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, including not disqualifying or evicting a resident due to alcohol or substance abuse, a criminal record, poor financial history or lack of an income. The authority may contract with outside entities to operate the housing units and award grants to those entities under a competitive bid process.

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

This bill provides ongoing funding necessary to fund 30 housing units and provide support services at those units for chronically homeless individuals including opiate-addicted homeless individuals.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-209)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, reduces the funding for the Housing First Assistance Program established in the bill from \$675,000 to \$300,000 per fiscal year.

### **Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-330)**

This amendment eliminates the General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2017-18 to a newly created Housing First Assistance Program within the Maine State Housing Authority.

This amendment provides a one-time Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$300,000 in fiscal year 2017-18 to the Housing First Assistance Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Maine State Housing Authority by transferring \$300,000 of revenue in fiscal year 2017-18 from the real estate transfer tax that would otherwise be deposited into the Housing Opportunity for Maine Fund within the Maine State Housing Authority.

### **LD 971      An Act To Exempt Certain Employees from the Minimum Wage Laws      ONTP**

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

This bill exempts from the minimum wage laws an employee who has not attained 18 years of age, is claimed as a dependent on the income tax return of another person or is employed by a seasonal employer.

### **LD 984      An Act To Separate the Authorities under the Licenses for Property and Casualty Insurance Adjusters and Workers' Compensation Insurance Adjusters      PUBLIC 152**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITTEMORE R PICCHIOTTI J	OTP-AM	S-149

This bill separates the authorities under the licenses for property and casualty insurance adjusters and workers' compensation insurance adjusters, beginning October 1, 2017.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-149)**

This amendment replaces the bill. It separates the authorities under the licenses for property and casualty insurance adjusters and workers' compensation insurance adjusters, beginning January 1, 2018. It removes the five-year experience requirement in the bill for property and casualty insurance adjusters to be deemed workers' compensation insurance adjusters and provides that those individuals licensed as property and casualty insurance adjusters on January 1, 2018, will be granted both property and casualty and workers' compensation authorities. This amendment also extends the exemption in current law applicable to licensure for property and casualty insurance adjusters who are employees of insurers to include workers' compensation insurance adjusters.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 152 separates the authorities under the licenses for property and casualty insurance adjusters and workers' compensation insurance adjusters, beginning January 1, 2018. It removes the five-year