

# 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**

August 2017

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# 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 1005 An Act Regarding Minimum Wage Increases**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEWART H VOLK A	ONTP	

This bill eliminates the \$1 per hour increases in the minimum wage scheduled for each of the next three years and eliminates increases in the minimum wage based on the increase in the cost of living starting in 2021. It also restores the tip credit to the minimum wage laws.

**LD 1006 An Act Regarding Housing Insecurity of Older Citizens**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TALBOT ROSS R	OTP-AM ONTP	H-210

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

This bill proposes to establish a statewide commission to study housing insecurity in the context of aging in place. The commission created under this bill would be tasked with exploring:

1. The long-term implications associated with the State's aging population;
2. The status of available affordable housing options in the State;
3. The availability of weatherization and repair programs that would allow older individuals to remain in their homes;
4. Various models of affordable and appropriate housing opportunities for older citizens that are in place in other states; and
5. The establishment of a statewide program facilitating the building for older persons of small accessory dwelling units that are located on the same grounds as, or attached to, a primary residence belonging to a family member of the older person.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-210)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. This amendment establishes the Advisory Council on Senior Housing to study the unmet need for affordable housing units for elderly residents of the State as well as the financial burden of home modifications and repairs necessary to enable the State's elderly residents to remain in their homes. The council is directed to make recommendations to the director of the Maine State Housing Authority for the development by January 1, 2023, of a strategic housing plan enabling elderly residents of the State to live in affordable, safe housing as they age. The director is directed to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters on the development or implementation of the strategic housing plan by March 15th of the first regular session of each Legislature. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to the next special or regular session of the 128th

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

Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, S.P. 601.

**LD 1036      Resolve, To Study Repeal of Occupational Licensing Requirements for  
Certain Occupations** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRAKEY E	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to submit a report with proposed legislation to remove licensing requirements for 24 specific occupations to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development by December 1, 2017. The committee is authorized to report out a bill related to the department's recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

**LD 1037      An Act To Provide for the 2017 and 2018 Allocations of the State Ceiling  
on Private Activity Bonds** **P & S 5  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK A FECTEAU R	OTP-AM	S-44

This bill establishes the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt private activity bonds for calendar years 2017 and 2018 among the state-level issuers of tax-exempt bonds.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-44)**

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Private and Special Law 2017, chapter 5 establishes the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt private activity bonds for calendar years 2017 and 2018 among the state-level issuers of tax-exempt bonds.

Private and Special Law 2017, chapter 5 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 12, 2017.

**LD 1056      An Act To Protect Homeowners from Workers' Compensation Claims** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MOONEN M	ONTP	

This bill requires that an insurer that is authorized to provide basic property and casualty insurance in this State provide, in connection with that insurance, workers' compensation insurance that covers any domestic worker of the insured.

**LD 1072      An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Dealers in Secondhand Precious  
Metals** **PUBLIC 126**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO T	OTP-AM	S-129