

# 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 1308      Resolve, To Expedite the Processing of Applications for Certification  
under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TALBOT ROSS R WOODSOME D	OTP-AM ONTP	H-118

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

This bill proposes to implement programs to facilitate the transition of persons from rehabilitation for drug or alcohol addiction or economic dependency to self-sufficiency by providing employment opportunities while allowing their employers to reduce their tax liability. This bill would create a program, modeled on the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit program operated by the United States Department of Labor, to encourage employers to hire from certain population segments, such as MaineCare and Medicare recipients, veterans, persons in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program or receiving general assistance, persons convicted of a crime who have been released from prison, persons recently out of residential treatment or detoxification for substance use disorder or who recently began medication-assisted treatment and disadvantaged teens. The incentives would consist of tax credits based on the wages paid to qualified persons and financial assistance for training costs.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-118)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the Department of Labor to establish a new permanent position in the Bureau of Employment Services to expedite the processing of employer applications for certification required for the federal work opportunity tax credit under Section 51 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. The amendment also requires the Department of Labor to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development with information concerning applications submitted by employers in 2017, including information on the extent of any backlog in application processing, by February 1, 2018. The amendment 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 Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, S.P. 601.

**LD 1324      An Act To Support Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Maine's  
Economic Future**

**PUBLIC 109**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GROHMAN M	OTP-AM	H-207

This bill expands the powers of the Maine Technology Institute by allowing the institute to administer technology centers that support early-stage development of technology-based businesses that are currently administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development; create a program to encourage the establishment of incubators and accelerators to support entrepreneurs through competitive grants and other financial assistance; establish a competitive summer internship program in the entrepreneurial support system with the University of Maine System; establish a program with the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board to support technology transfer at postsecondary institutions and nonprofit research institutes in the State; and establish a program of education and assistance on the patenting process with the University of Maine School of Law to support commercialization of innovations. The bill provides that the administrative costs of these new programs and activities are not considered management and related operating costs of the institute subject to the 10% statutory cap in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 15305.

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

## **Committee Amendment "A" (H-207)**

This amendment clarifies that the new powers granted to the Maine Technology Institute through the bill are not exclusive in nature.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 109 expands the powers of the Maine Technology Institute by allowing the institute to administer technology centers that support early-stage development of technology-based businesses that are currently administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. The law further authorizes the institute to establish and operate programs, including but not limited to, a program to encourage the establishment of incubators and accelerators to support entrepreneurs through competitive grants and other financial assistance; a competitive summer internship program in the entrepreneurial support system with the University of Maine System; a program with the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board to support technology transfer at postsecondary institutions and nonprofit research institutes in the State; and a program of education and assistance on the patenting process with the University of Maine School of Law to support commercialization of innovations. The administrative costs of these new programs and activities are not considered management and related operating costs of the institute subject to the 10% statutory cap in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 15305.

### **LD 1327      An Act To Allow Former Military Medical Personnel To Perform Certain Medical Services**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARRIN B THIBODEAU M		

This bill allows a former United States Army medic, United States Air Force medical technician, United States Navy corpsman or United States Coast Guard health services technician to perform medical services that reflect the person's medical training and experience under the supervision of a person licensed by the Board of Osteopathic Licensure, Board of Licensure in Medicine or Board of Licensure of Podiatric Medicine or under the supervision of a health care facility that is itself supervised by a licensee. The medical services must be delegated to the person by the supervising licensee and set forth in a medical practice agreement approved by the relevant board.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1138.

### **LD 1340      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine State Housing Authority**

**PUBLIC 234**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK A FECTEAU R	OTP-AM OTP-AM	S-243

This bill updates the laws governing the Maine State Housing Authority by:

1. Reducing the number of annual, biennial or one-time reports required by statute, by eliminating the following: the annual report on the allocation of the state ceiling on tax-exempt bonds; the annual report on the low-income energy assistance program; a one-time report due in 2005 on housing for young professionals and young families; reports by municipalities and school districts on land or buildings suitable for construction of affordable housing; biennial reports on the adequacy of data collection regarding Maine's housing stock; automatic annual reports on the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Fund; a one-time report due in 1989 on a plan for the use of state-owned land; and a biennial report on the surplus land trust;