

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



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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STATE OF MAINE

128TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions 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 dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128th Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. 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

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 is the majority report of the committee. It replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, 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.

LD 1327 An Act To Expedite Health Care Employment for Military Veterans

PUBLIC 326

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARRIN B THIBODEAU M	OTP-AM	H-581

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-581)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment establishes the Health Care Employment for Military Veterans Program within the Department of Labor and charges the program with creating a "military-to-civilian crosswalk" that compares the military training and experience obtained by individuals who have served in specific military health care occupational specialties and the education and experience required to obtain national certification or state licensure or certification in equivalent or similar civilian health care occupations. The program is also charged with providing direct assistance to eligible veterans who seek to enroll in postsecondary education institutions and obtain academic credit for their military training and experience as well as eligible veterans who seek to secure an apprenticeship or employment in a health care occupation in the State. The department is required to operate the program using existing resources or available grant funding and, to the extent resources are limited, the program is required to give priority to eligible veterans who were discharged or released from military service no longer than two years prior to seeking assistance.

Enacted Law Summary

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

Public Law 2017, chapter 326 establishes the Health Care Employment for Military Veterans Program within the Department of Labor and charges the program with creating a "military-to-civilian crosswalk" that compares the military training and experience obtained by individuals who have served in specific military health care occupational specialties and the education and experience required to obtain national certification or state licensure or certification in equivalent or similar civilian health care occupations. The program is also charged with providing direct assistance to eligible veterans who seek to enroll in postsecondary education institutions and obtain academic credit for their military training and experience as well as eligible veterans who seek to secure an apprenticeship or employment in a health care occupation in the State. The department is required to operate the program using existing resources or available grant funding and, to the extent resources are limited, the program is required to give priority to eligible veterans who were discharged or released from military service no longer than two years prior to seeking assistance.

**LD 1343 An Act To Promote Downtown Revitalization by Creating the Locating
Businesses Downtown Loan Program**

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHENETTE J FECTEAU R	OTP-AM ONTP	S-152

This bill was reported out of committee in the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature and then carried over to the Second Regular Session on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order S.P. 601. This bill was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, from the Second Regular Session to the Second Special Session by joint order S.P. 748.

This bill establishes the Locating Businesses Downtown Loan Program within the Communities for Maine's Future Program to provide forgivable loans for businesses seeking to initially locate or to relocate in a downtown area, village area or along a main street within the State. Applications for loans under the program are evaluated by the Department of Economic and Community Development in conjunction with a loan review panel. Successful applicants must execute a loan agreement prepared by the department specifying the terms and conditions of the loan, including the length of time that a business must remain in the downtown area, village area or along a main street within the State for the loan to be forgiven.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-152)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It changes the appointing authority for one member of the Locating Businesses Downtown Loan Review Panel established by the bill. Instead of one representative from a statewide organization that advocates for economic development that preserves the quality of life in local communities being jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, this panel member is appointed by the Maine Development Foundation.

LD 1542 An Act To Support Lead Abatement in Older Residential Properties

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDEN J LIBBY N	OTP-AM	H-628

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. The bill was then reported out of committee in the Second Regular Session and carried over to the Second Special Session on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order S.P. 748.