

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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*Committee member for a portion of the session

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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

to disclosure under the Freedom of Access Act;

7. Granting the authority the power to perform all functions necessary or useful for carrying out any of its powers, duties or purposes;

8. Eliminating the following duties of the authority: to create affirmative housing action plans for consideration by regional planning commissions and local planning boards; to expand access to housing for young professionals and young families; and to develop guidelines for energy improvements that may be made with proceeds of home improvement notes;

9. Permitting the authority to refinance single-family mortgage loans held by the authority in order to lower mortgage payments or make home improvements for persons with low income; exempting the authority from using an escrow agent if the authority finances 60% or more of a construction loan for low-income housing; and extending the right of first refusal time period for the authority or local housing authorities to purchase property containing a low-income housing project;

10. Decreasing from two years to one year the period during which a former employee or commissioner of the authority may not accept employment with or acquire an interest in a project over which that person exercised control, responsibility or decisions during employment or tenure;

11. Authorizing the Maine State Housing Authority to provide an arsenic abatement program to homeowners with private well water that shows evidence of arsenic contamination, including individuals whose homes are located on land owned by an immediate family member; and

12. Requiring municipal housing authorities to meet at least annually with the legislative bodies of the municipalities for which they are created.

LD 1341

An Act To Clarify Eligibility for Unemployment Benefits during Labor Disputes

Died Between Houses

Sponsor(s)

VOLK A
VACHON K

Committee Report

ONTP
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

This bill removes the provision of law affecting the disqualification for unemployment benefits of employees at an establishment at which there is a labor dispute and at which there would have been a work stoppage but for the employer's maintaining substantially normal operations through the use of other personnel. It also broadens the disqualification from unemployment benefits in current law for unemployment that is due to a stoppage of work caused by a labor dispute by eliminating the requirement that there be a stoppage of work. Instead, unemployment that is due to a labor dispute is sufficient grounds for a denial of benefits. It also updates the language of the exceptions to this disqualification in current law to reflect the elimination of the stoppage of work requirement.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-165)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

This amendment was not adopted.