

STATE OF MAINE 128^{TH} 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

 $128^{\text{TH}} LEGISLATURE$ FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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 OVERcarried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature	p
CON RES XXX	
CON RES AXA $(1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3,$	з 1
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died	a
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES	
DIED IN CONCURRENCE defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died	d
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT action incomplete when session ended; legislation died	d
EMERGENCYenacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment	t
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGEemergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote	е
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE failed to receive final majority vote	е
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENTlegislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote	е
HELD BY GOVERNOR Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session	n
LEAVE TO WITHDRAWsponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted	
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODYruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died	d
INDEF PP indefinitely postponed; legislation died	d
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died	d
P&S XXX	v
PUBLIC XXX	v
RESOLVE XXX	е
VETO SUSTAINEDLegislature failed to override Governor's veto	0
	-

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

LD 1467An Act To Expand Competitive Skills Scholarships and StrengthenONTPMaine's Workforce Development ProgramsONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
VITELLI E	ONTP	
VACHON K		

This bill makes a number of changes to the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program administered by the Department of Labor, including the following.

1. It doubles the current employer contribution rate to the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund.

2. It allocates an additional \$3,000,000 on an ongoing basis from the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund for the purpose of doubling the number of participants enrolled from the number of currently enrolled participants.

3. It dedicates 25% of the additional allocated funds per fiscal year for the use of program participants who are also participants in the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program administered by the State pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3104.

4. It makes changes to the criteria used to determine approved education and training under the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program, including consideration of employer input, changing demographics and traditional industries in the State in which innovations and new technologies are creating a demand for skilled workers.

5. It requires that a participant be given information about and assistance in applying for the family development account program under Title 10, chapter 110, subchapter 4-A.

6. It also adds a requirement that a participant be offered comprehensive career planning services prior to the program's development of an individual career plan with the participant.

LD 1468 An Act To Expand Application of the Maine State Housing Authority's ONTP Arsenic Abatement Program

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
THIBODEAU M VACHON K	ONTP	

This bill specifies that the owner of a single-family home that is located on land owned by a member of the owner's immediate family is eligible under the Maine State Housing Authority's arsenic abatement program, which provides loans and grants to low-income single family homeowners with private well water that shows evidence of arsenic contamination.

The substance of this bill was included in Public Law 2017, chapter 234 (see LD 1340).

LD 1477	An Act To Coordinate and Enforce Existing Workplace Training	PUBLIC 162
	Requirements	

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
AUSTIN S SAVIELLO T	OTP-AM	H-344

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

This bill amends the law to specify the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Labor and the Maine Human Rights Commission in the development, execution and enforcement of the existing workplace training requirements for sexual harassment. It requires the commission to provide its sexual harassment poster to employers at no charge and requires the commission to develop and annually update the content of the sexual harassment training. It adds penalties for employers who have not met the posting, notification, education and training requirements. It also provides that department determinations of employer compliance or other completed enforcement actions are considered final and may not be challenged by the commission.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-344)

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It provides that the Maine Human Rights Commission may provide its sexual harassment workplace poster at no cost to employers, instead of being required to do so.

2. It replaces the requirement that the Maine Human Rights Commission provide employers with a training guide and instead directs the Department of Labor to develop a compliance checklist and post it on the department's website. Employers must use the checklist to develop their required sexual harassment training program. Employers must keep a record of the training, including a record of employees who have received the required training, must maintain training records for three years and must make such records available to the department for inspection.

3. It removes the provision that would have prevented the Maine Human Rights Commission from challenging a determination or completed enforcement action by the Department of Labor related to the sexual harassment training requirements and provides that such actions do not limit or affect the authority or jurisdiction of the commission.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 162 amends the law to specify the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Labor and the Maine Human Rights Commission in the development, execution and enforcement of the existing workplace training requirements for sexual harassment. It provides that the commission may provide its sexual harassment poster to employers at no charge. This law directs the Department of Labor to develop a compliance checklist for the required sexual harassment training and post it on the department's website. It requires employers to use the checklist to develop their required sexual harassment training program and to keep a record of the training, including a record of employees who have received the required training. Training records must be maintained for three years and employers must make such records available to the department for inspection. This law also adds penalties for employers who have not met the posting, notification, education and training requirements.

LD 1478An Act To Provide Support for Sustainable Economic Development in
Rural MainePUBLIC 174
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
HERBIG E	OTP-AM	H-391
DILL J		

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

This bill proposes to provide funding to the Maine Rural Development Authority in the amount of \$10,000,000.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-391)

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, and adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause. The amendment establishes the Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program within the