

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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128TH 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 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

2. It requires that a community-based organization have a demonstrated ability to leverage existing community-based resources and have a plan to promote collaboration and connection among entrepreneurs and community resources in order to be eligible to receive a grant from the fund.
3. It defines "small business" as a business located in the State that produces goods or provides services and has 20 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, including, but not limited to, contractors and independent consultants, particularly those in trades and technology industries; family-owned small businesses whose founders are nearing retirement; small businesses undergoing change of ownership; and small businesses engaged in agriculture, forestry or fishing.
4. It authorizes the Department of Economic and Community Development to award a grant from the fund to a community-based organization to aid that organization in providing training to small businesses that show a high potential for growth, including training to provide them with the network, resources and motivation required to build a sustainable business of size and scale. To be eligible for training, a small business with a high potential for growth must have been established for at least three years and have annual revenue between \$200,000 and \$5,000,000 per year.
5. It requires the department, when making grants from the fund, to give priority to applications that target aid to areas with a higher percentage of small businesses with five or fewer employees and low median household incomes.
6. It requires that an applicant for a grant to provide training to small businesses that show a high potential for growth must demonstrate a proven ability to increase the growth of small business training participants.
7. It requires that technical assistance and training must address issues of regulatory compliance, personnel training and support, including wages, hours, benefits, health and wellness and environmental and safety issues, and other issues that affect performance, management and legal obligations of small business owners.
8. It requires a community-based organization that receives a grant from the fund to provide a 50% match in the form of cash, staff time and overhead expense directly attributable to small business training and technical assistance.

LD 1503

An Act To Amend Criteria for Issuing a Certificate of Approval for Certain Projects under the Finance Authority of Maine Act

**PUBLIC 95
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

VOLK A

Committee Report

OTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill amends a provision in the Finance Authority of Maine Act related to bond financing for energy projects to require as part of the Finance Authority of Maine's approval criteria that a borrower demonstrate a strong likelihood instead of a reasonable likelihood of the borrower's ability to repay the bonds through project revenues or other revenues and collateral, to match other authority moral obligation bond program requirements.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 95 amends a provision in the Finance Authority of Maine Act related to bond financing for energy projects to require as part of the Finance Authority of Maine's approval criteria that a borrower demonstrate a strong likelihood instead of a reasonable likelihood of the borrower's ability to repay the bonds through project revenues or other revenues and collateral, to match other authority moral obligation bond program requirements.

Public Law 2017, chapter 95 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 26, 2017.