

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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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

LD 1583 An Act To Amend the Electricians' Examining Board Licensing Laws

**PUBLIC 198
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK A	OTP-AM	S-211

This bill amends and updates technical terminology, removes outdated provisions and ambiguity and reorganizes existing provisions of the laws governing the Electricians' Examining Board in the Maine Revised Statutes Title 32, chapter 17.

The bill adds a definition of "dwelling unit" and amends the definition of "electrical installation" to include updated terminology. The bill repeals the definition of "supervision" and the existing provision of law outlining the qualifications and scope of practice of specific license types, replacing these provisions with a new section of law comprehensively outlining the qualifications, scope of practice and supervisory authority of all licenses issued by the board.

The bill clarifies existing provisions applicable to permitting, inspection and certification of electrical installations in non-residential and residential buildings. The bill moves provisions applicable to state electrical inspectors to a more appropriate section.

The bill clarifies that the Electricians' Examining Board is composed of five master electricians and two public members and reduces from ten years to five years the required years of licensed experience prior to board appointment. It expands the board's authority to license an applicant who holds a license from another state with different licensure qualifications, as long as the applicant can demonstrate comparable work experience, education, training or a combination thereof that is acceptable to the board.

The bill amends the reciprocity laws to reduce the minimum number of work hours that an electrician licensed in a reciprocal state must show to obtain a journeyman electrician or master electrician license in Maine.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-211)

This amendment adds provisions that allow a limited electrician to supervise licensed helper and apprentice electricians to the same extent as under current law and that allow applicants for a master electrician license to count hours worked as an apprentice electrician toward the 12,000-hour experience requirement, as is permitted in current law.

This amendment also makes technical changes to the bill and adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 198 amends and updates technical terminology, removes outdated provisions and ambiguity and reorganizes existing provisions of the laws governing the Electricians' Examining Board in the Maine Revised Statutes Title 32, chapter 17.

Public Law 2017, chapter 198 amends the definition of "electrical installation" to include updated terminology. It repeals the definition of "supervision" and the existing provision of law outlining the qualifications and scope of practice of specific license types, replacing these provisions with a new section of law comprehensively outlining the qualifications, scope of practice and supervisory authority of all licenses issued by the board.

Public Law 2017, chapter 198 clarifies existing provisions applicable to permitting, inspection and certification of electrical installations in non-residential and residential buildings and moves provisions applicable to state electrical inspectors to a more appropriate section.

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

Public Law 2017, chapter 198 also clarifies that the Electricians' Examining Board is composed of five master electricians and two public members and reduces from ten years to five years the required years of licensed experience prior to board appointment. It expands the board's authority to license an applicant who holds a license from another state with different licensure qualifications, as long as the applicant can demonstrate comparable work experience, education, training or a combination thereof that is acceptable to the board.

Public Law 2017, chapter 198 amends the reciprocity laws to reduce the minimum number of work hours that an electrician licensed in a reciprocal state must document to obtain a journeyman electrician or master electrician license in Maine.

Public Law 2017, chapter 198 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 14, 2017.

LD 1587 An Act To Provide Economic Security to Maine Families through the CARRIED OVER
Creation of a Paid Family Medical Leave System

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HERBIG E VOLK A		

This bill creates a paid family medical leave program, patterned after the unpaid family medical leave program existing in current law but requiring a contribution from an eligible employee, or a self-employed person on a voluntary basis, of no more than 0.5% of the employee's or self-employed person's wages or earnings. The program requires employers to deduct the contributions from employee paychecks and for the employers and self-employed persons to submit contributions to the Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, which is charged with administering the program. The program pays benefits of up to 66% of an employee's wages or self-employed person's earnings capped at the same maximum amount as unemployment benefits for leave taken by the employee or self-employed person for various family-related medical issues. This bill makes participation optional for employers that employ fewer than 15 employees. This bill also directs the Department of Labor to develop an implementation plan dealing with staffing, technology, start-up expense, rulemaking and scheduling to begin the program on its effective date of October 1, 2019.

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

LD 1592 An Act To Remove Barriers to Professional Licensing for Veterans PUBLIC 173

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDEN J	OTP-AM	H-307

This bill grants the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation the authority to modify licensing requirements of professional licensing boards administered by the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation on a case-by-case basis for applicants for licensure who are military veterans.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-307)

This amendment clarifies that examination fees, not examinations, may be waived for applicants for licensure who are military veterans.

Enacted Law Summary