

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

August 2017

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> 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 128<sup>th</sup> 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 128<sup>th</sup> 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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

**LD 1601**

**An Act To Increase Funds Deposited into the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund through the Pet Food Surcharge**

**PUBLIC 263  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLACK R	OTP-AM	H-447

This bill eliminates the surcharge assessed on each product name of commercial feed that is pet food or that is pet food from a home-based manufacturer by fiscal year 2019-20. This elimination will be done in phases until the assessed surcharge no longer exists.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-447)**

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. It provides that funds from the surcharge on pet food received for a registration year between \$100,000 and \$157,000 are deposited into the Animal Welfare Fund by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and that funds over \$157,000 are deposited into the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund in addition to the \$100,000 currently provided to the fund in statute.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 263 provides that funds from the surcharge on pet food received for a registration year between \$100,000 and \$157,000 are deposited into the Animal Welfare Fund by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and that funds over \$157,000 are deposited into the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund in addition to the \$100,000 currently provided to the fund in statute.

Public Law 2017, chapter 231 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 27, 2017.

**LD 1611**

**An Act To Protect Persons Who Cultivate, Process, Buy and Sell Hemp**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D SANDERSON D		

This bill establishes an industrial hemp pilot program under which educational institutions of higher learning and others are allowed to plant, grow, harvest, process, possess, transport, purchase, sell and distribute industrial hemp for research purposes under a license issued by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The department is required to adopt rules to certify and register sites and license activities related to industrial hemp and to license industrial hemp producer collectives. The rules must address testing procedures and standards, an industrial hemp certified seed program, pollen drift and feral hemp and allow for hemp production indoors, outdoors and in greenhouses.

This bill allows licensees to use industrial hemp clones. It requires the department to encourage collaboration with other states' educational institutions of higher learning and state departments of agriculture. It also prevents industrial hemp from being listed as a primary or secondary noxious-weed seed. It creates a civil violation for a person or entity that violates the new provision.

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