

STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

August 2015

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Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

LD 11 An Act To Exempt the Sale of the United States Flag from the Sales Tax Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHORT DAVIS	OTP-AM	H-11

This bill exempts from the sales and use tax sales of the United States flag as long as the flag is made entirely of cloth or similar material, except for grommets or noncloth fasteners used in displaying the flag.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-11)

This amendment adds an effective date of October 1, 2015.

See also LD 208.

LD 13 An Act To Provide an Exemption from Sales Tax and Service Provider Tax to Nonprofit Collaboratives of Libraries Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRATWICK HUBBELL	OTP-AM	S-1

This bill provides an exemption from sales tax and service provider tax for certain nonprofit library collaboratives.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-1)

This amendment corrects an effective date.

The substance of the bill was included in the biennial budget bill, Public Law 2015, chapter 267, Part OOOO. Please see LD 1019, summarized under the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

LD 26 An Act To Simplify the Process for Fuel Tax Rebates ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALLEY BURNS	ONTP	

This bill extends from 12 months to 16 months the time period for taxpayers requesting a fuel tax refund for off-road use to permit persons who file at the same time as their income tax return to apply for the entire previous calendar year.

See also LD 238.

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LD 27 An Act To Exempt Persons 67 Years of Age and Older from the State Income Tax ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ESPLING CUSHING	ONTP	

This bill exempts from the state income tax income of residents who are 67 years of age or older unless the income is received jointly with a person who has not reached 67 years of age.

See also LD 625 and LD 760.

LD 29 An Act To Establish a Local Option Real Estate Transfer Tax ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODE LIBBY	ONTP	

This bill allows a municipality, by referendum, to establish a local option real estate transfer tax of up to one percent on the transfer of real property that is subject to the state real estate transfer tax.

LD 30 An Act To Exempt Fuel Used by Commercial Farmers from Sales Tax ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE J	ONTP	

This bill provides a sales tax refund or exemption for fuel used in commercial agricultural production.

See also LD 290 and LD 432.

LD 48 An Act To Reduce Registration Fees and Excise Taxes for For-hire Vehicles with Adaptive Equipment Enabling Access by Persons with Disabilities Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VEROW LIBBY	OTP	

This bill exempts from the motor vehicle excise tax adaptive equipment installed on a motor vehicle owned by a carrier engaged in furnishing passenger service for hire. It also reduces by half the motor vehicle registration fee of a passenger vehicle used for hire that is equipped with adaptive equipment to make that vehicle operable or accessible by a person with a disability.

The substance of the bill was included in the biennial budget bill, PL 2015, chapter 267, Part BBBB. Please see LD 1019, summarized under the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

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LD 49 An Act To Exempt from Excise Tax Certain Vehicles Used by Persons with a Disability CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VEROW LIBBY		

This bill provides a motor vehicle excise tax exemption for motor vehicles owned and designed for use by a person with a disability. This exemption is in addition to the sales tax exemption currently allowed for adaptive equipment installed on a vehicle.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 64 An Act To Reduce the Time within Which a Challenge to a Tax Lien Foreclosure May Be Filed Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VEROW LIBBY	OTP	

This bill reduces from five years to three years following foreclosure the length of time in which a challenge to a governmental taking of real estate for nonpayment of taxes may be filed.

LD 76 An Act To Amend the Property Tax Fairness Credit Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY STUCKEY	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill amends the property tax fairness credit by increasing the maximum credit to \$900 for an eligible person under 65 years of age and \$1,200 for an eligible person 65 years of age and older.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-202)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill and amends the property tax fairness credit by increasing the percentage of rent constituting property taxes from 15 percent to 20 percent and lowering the property tax as a percentage of the income threshold above which a credit may be available from six percent of income to five percent of income.

See also LD 1095.

LD 79 An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Trade-in Credit for Core Parts ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DIAMOND COREY	ONTP	

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This bill provides a sales tax trade-in credit for core parts. A core part is a component that, when replaced, is returned to the manufacturer to be rebuilt and used again.

LD 94 An Act To Base the Excise Tax Imposed on the Purchase of a Motor Vehicle on the Price Paid Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SIROCKI	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires the excise tax on motor vehicles and camper trailers to be based on the purchase price of the motor vehicle or camper trailer. The purchase price is determined for new motor vehicles and camper trailers based on the initial bill of sale or state sales tax document. For used motor vehicles and camper trailers, if the initial bill of sale or state sales tax document is not available, the excise tax is based on the maker's list price. This bill requires the State to reimburse municipalities for the excise tax revenue loss attributable to basing the excise tax on all motor vehicles on the purchase price.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-327)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill and provides that, beginning January 1, 2017, the motor vehicle excise tax is imposed on 90 percent of the maker's list price.

LD 95 An Act To Provide Income Tax Relief ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STUCKEY	ONTP	

This bill changes the Maine income tax rate structure by replacing the current three-bracket rate structure with a six-bracket rate structure from zero percent to ten percent. The rate brackets are calculated by the State Tax Assessor every five calendar years to maintain the same level of progressivity of the tax by maintaining the same percentage of taxpayers in each top marginal rate category.

This bill also repeals the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and increases the percentage of excess General Fund revenues transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund by the amount currently transferred to the tax relief fund.

See also LD 836 and LD 1269.

LD 96 An Act To Increase the State Earned Income Credit INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STUCKEY ALFOND	OTP-AM	

This bill, beginning in 2015, increases the state earned income credit from five percent to ten percent of the federal earned income credit and provides that the state earned income credit is fully refundable.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-230)

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This amendment clarifies the timing of the bill's changes to the earned income tax credit, adds an enhanced credit for taxpayers with no qualifying child that is equal to 50 percent of the federal earned income tax credit and removes provisions of the bill making the credit refundable.

See also LD 96 and LD 648.

LD 116 An Act To Expand the Use of Tax Increment Financing Revenue ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CYRWAY LUCHINI	ONTP	

This bill allows a municipality or plantation that forms a tax increment financing district to use the revenue generated by that district to pay for the costs of vital public services, as long as the costs of the services do not exceed 50 percent of the tax increment revenue and the costs are not paid for more than two fiscal years during the life of the tax increment financing district and its development program. Vital public services are fire and rescue, law enforcement and waste disposal services and local road improvements.

**LD 118 An Act To Authorize Municipalities To Refund Amounts Collected in PUBLIC 53
Excess of Tax Liens EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCORMICK	OTP-AM	S-55

This bill authorizes a municipality that forecloses on residential real estate to return the excess funds, after subtracting the tax lien, interest, fees for recording the lien, costs of mailing notice, court costs, taxes that would have been assessed while the property was held by the municipality and any other expenses incurred in disposing of the real estate.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-55)

This amendment provides that disbursement of the excess of any funds acquired for nonpayment of property taxes must be authorized by municipal ordinance or, with regard to the unorganized territory, by rulemaking by the State Tax Assessor. The amendment clarifies the taxes, interest, fees and other costs connected with the disposal of property acquired through the tax lien and foreclosure process that may be retained by the municipality. The amendment also provides that an authorizing ordinance may apply to sales of property acquired through the tax lien and foreclosure process on or after January 1, 2015.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 53 authorizes a municipality that forecloses on residential real estate to return the excess funds, after subtracting the taxes, interest and fees and any other expenses incurred in disposing of the real estate. The disbursement of the excess of any funds acquired for nonpayment of property taxes must be authorized by municipal ordinance or, with regard to the unorganized territory, by rulemaking by the State Tax Assessor. An authorizing ordinance may apply to sales of property acquired through the tax lien and foreclosure process on or after January 1, 2015.

Public Law 2015, chapter 53 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2015.

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LD 120 An Act To Provide a Tax Credit to Maine Residents for Turnpike Tolls

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRAKEY	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill provides a refundable income tax credit to Maine residents for tolls paid to the Maine Turnpike Authority.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-137)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill. It establishes a \$100 maximum tax credit for users of the Maine Turnpike and requires users claiming the credit to have receipts for cash tolls paid or a statement from the Maine Turnpike Authority showing the amount paid under the E-Z Pass program. It also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**LD 168 An Act Relating to the Sales Tax Exemption on Depreciable Equipment
Used in Commercial Wood Harvesting**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN J	ONTP	

This bill provides that the sales tax exemption or refund for depreciable equipment used in commercial wood harvesting applies only when the harvesting is performed by residents of the United States or by business entities with headquarters in the United States.

LD 169 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Groundwater Rights

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KORNFIELD	ONTP	

This bill creates an excise tax of one cent per gallon on the extraction of groundwater or surface water from springs or other underground sources in this State by a bottled water operator that extracted more than 1,000,000 gallons in the previous calendar year if the water is packaged for sale in containers of five gallons or less. The revenue from the tax is applied 25 percent to watershed and water quality protection, 50 percent to essential programs and services for kindergarten to grade 12 and 25 percent to the municipality where the water was extracted.

**LD 170 An Act To Remove the 180-day Active Duty Requirement for the
Property Tax Exemption for Vietnam Veterans**

PUBLIC 353

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NADEAU DUTREMBLE	OTP-AM	H-15

Current law provides a property tax exemption to a veteran of the Vietnam War as long as the veteran served on active duty for at least 180 days during the period between February 27, 1961 and May 8, 1975.

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This bill repeals that limitation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-15)

This amendment clarifies the intent of the bill by restoring the dates, which the bill strikes, that establish the period of time of service for eligibility for the veterans' exemption for the Vietnam War.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 353 became law without the Governor's signature and removes the 180 day service requirement for eligibility for a property tax exemption for veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

LD 183 An Act To Decrease Property Taxes by Increasing the Sales Tax ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PICCHIOTTI	ONTP	

This bill increases the homestead property tax exemption from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and requires that municipalities be reimbursed for 100 percent of the taxes lost due to the increase. The bill also increases from five percent to six percent the sales tax on tangible personal property and taxable services and products transferred electronically with a value of \$5,000 or less.

See also the biennial budget bill, PL 2015, chapter 267, Part J which increases the homestead exemption to \$15,000 in 2016 and \$20,000 in 2017 and subsequent years.

LD 191 An Act To Require the Transfer of a Forest Management and Harvest Plan upon the Transfer of Land in the Tree Growth Tax Program ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO	ONTP	

This bill provides that, when land taxed under the tree growth tax program is transferred, the new landowner may file a sworn statement that a new forest management and harvest plan has been prepared. If the new landowner does not file a new plan, the landowner must continue to manage the land in accordance with the plan prepared for the previous landowner or the land is considered to have been withdrawn from the program.

LD 208 An Act To Provide Funding for Maintaining Cemeteries within the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY BRYANT	ONTP	

This bill requires that the sales tax collected from the sale of United States flags be deposited into the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund for the purpose of maintaining the cemeteries in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System.

See also LD 11.

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LD 226 An Act To Promote Efficiency in Food Pantry Operation

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHAPMAN	ONTP	

This bill provides a sales tax exemption for sales of used goods by a nonprofit organization when the profits from those sales are used by that nonprofit organization to purchase food and provide that food for free to the indigent.

LD 238 An Act To Extend the Period of Time for Persons Who Purchase Special Fuel and Gasoline for Off-highway Use To Apply for the Special Fuel and Gasoline Tax Refunds

**PUBLIC 9
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARRIN CUSHING	OTP-AM	H-12

This bill extends from 12 months to 18 months the period of time within which an application for a refund of taxes paid on internal combustion engine fuel or on special fuel may be made by a person who purchases and uses the fuel for any use other than the operation of a registered motor vehicle on the highways of the State and has paid the tax imposed on that fuel for highway use.

See also LD 26.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 9 extends from 12 months to 18 months the period of time within which an application for a refund of taxes paid on internal combustion engine fuel or on special fuel may be made by a person who purchases and uses the fuel for any use other than the operation of a registered motor vehicle on the highways of the State and has paid the tax imposed on that fuel for highway use.

Public Law 2015, chapter 9 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 2, 2015.

LD 278 An Act To Encourage the Use of Fuel-efficient Vehicles

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RYKERSON	ONTP	

This bill provides a sales tax exemption for passenger automobiles and light trucks with fuel economy ratings that exceed by at least 10 miles per gallon federal corporate average fuel economy standards, commonly referred to as "CAFE" standards.

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LD 279 An Act Regarding Payment under the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program

PUBLIC 239

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY LIBBY	OTP-AM	H-322

This bill requires that reimbursement for property taxes under the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program be held by the State Tax Assessor if the claimant is delinquent in taxes owed to a municipality on the date of certification of eligibility.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-322)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment directs the State Tax Assessor to suspend reimbursement under the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program that would otherwise be issued if a taxpayer is delinquent in the payment of personal property taxes. If the taxpayer does not pay the tax due by the end of the reimbursement application period, the taxpayer's eligibility for the suspended reimbursement is terminated.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 239 directs the State Tax Assessor to suspend reimbursement under the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program that would otherwise be issued if a taxpayer is delinquent in the payment of personal property taxes. If the taxpayer does not pay the tax due by the end of the reimbursement application period, the taxpayer's eligibility for the suspended reimbursement is terminated.

LD 280 An Act To Exempt Military Pensions and Survivor Benefits from Maine Income Tax

Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GINZLER HAMPER	OTP-AM	H-211

This bill provides an income tax exemption for benefits received under a military retirement plan, including survivor benefits.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-211)

This amendment clarifies that the exemption for military benefits applies to those benefits included in federal adjusted gross income.

LD 281 Resolve, To Modify the State Valuation of the Towns of Madison, Skowhegan, East Millinocket and Jay To Reflect the Loss of Valuation of Major Taxpayers in Those Towns

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCABE WHITTEMORE	OTP-AM ONTP	H-478 H-500 MCCABE

This resolve provides that the 2015 state valuations for the Town of Madison and the Town of Skowhegan for the purposes of calculating state-municipal revenue-sharing funds and the distribution of general purpose aid for local

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schools must be based on a valuation that values the property of the Madison Paper Company in the Town of Madison at \$80,000,000 and the property of the S.D. Warren Company in the Town of Skowhegan at \$463,224,200.

It also provides that the 2015 state valuation for the Town of Madison for the purpose of calculating the distribution to Regional School Unit No. 59 of general purpose aid for local schools for the three-year period from fiscal year 2015-16 to fiscal year 2017-18 must be based on a valuation that values the property of the Madison Paper Company in the Town of Madison at \$80,000,000, and the 2015 state valuation for the Town of Skowhegan for the purpose of calculating the distribution to Regional School Unit No. 54 of general purpose aid for local schools for the three-year period from fiscal year 2015-16 to fiscal year 2017-18 must be based on a valuation that values the property of the S.D. Warren Company in the Town of Skowhegan at \$463,224,200.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-478)

This amendment, the majority report of the committee, establishes adjustments to state valuations for the towns of Madison, Skowhegan, East Millinocket and Jay for the purposes of state-municipal revenue sharing and education funding to reflect the effect of significant losses in valuation of major taxpayers due to declines in the paper industry.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-500)

This amendment removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

This resolve was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 282	An Act To Modify the State Valuation of the Town of Madison To Reflect the Loss in Valuation of the Madison Paper Company, To Modify the State Valuation of the Town of Skowhegan To Reflect the Loss in Valuation of the S.D. Warren Company and To Amend the Law Governing School Subsidy Distribution in the Circumstance of Sudden Loss in Municipal Valuation	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCABE WHITTEMORE	ONTP	

This bill provides an exception under the school funding formula for a municipality that has experienced a net reduction in equalized municipal valuation of at least two percent from the previous year by providing that the property fiscal capacity for the municipality is the most recently certified state valuation.

The bill also provides that the 2015 state valuation for the Town of Madison and the Town of Skowhegan for the purposes of calculating state-municipal revenue-sharing funds and the distribution of general purpose aid for local schools must be based on a valuation that values the property of the Madison Paper Company in the Town of Madison at \$80,000,000 and the property of the S.D. Warren Company in the Town of Skowhegan at \$463,224,200.

See also LD 281 and LD 550.

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LD 290 An Act To Refund the Sales Tax Paid on Fuel Used in Commercial Agricultural Production and Commercial Wood Harvesting Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUSHING THERIAULT	OTP-AM ONTP	S-138

This bill provides a sales and use tax refund or exemption for fuel used in commercial wood harvesting or commercial agricultural production.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-138)

This amendment, the majority report of the committee, makes technical changes to facilitate implementation of the bill.

See also LD 30 and LD 432.

LD 315 An Act To Provide a Refund of Fuel Taxes to Maine Ambulance Companies ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE WILLETTE	ONTP	

This bill permits ambulance service companies and associations in this State to apply for a refund of fuel taxes, including those that have a contract with a political subdivision and those that do not.

LD 322 An Act To Enhance the Creative Economy by Providing a Sales Tax Exemption to Incorporated Nonprofit Performing Arts Organizations Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DECHANT GERZOFSKY	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill provides a sales tax exemption for sales to incorporated nonprofit performing arts organizations.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-72)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 332 An Act To Exempt from Sales Tax Sales to Certain Nonprofit Corporations That Provide Home Rehabilitation and Modification Services to Low-income Individuals ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HAWKE	ONTP	

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This bill provides a sales tax exemption for sales to certain incorporated nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to use volunteers to rehabilitate or modify housing for low-income individuals.

LD 341 An Act To Prevent Tax Haven Abuse

Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIPPING-SPITZ LIBBY	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires corporations that file unitary income tax returns in Maine to include income from certain jurisdictions outside the United States in net income when apportioning income among tax jurisdictions. The State Tax Assessor is required to adopt major substantive rules to determine the income or loss attributable to such corporations and to prevent double taxation or deduction of income.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-97)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, removes the Republic of Ireland from the list of jurisdictions considered tax havens and adds a requirement that the State Tax Assessor submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters regarding whether jurisdictions should be added to or deleted from the list of tax havens based on specified criteria.

LD 365 An Act To Provide a Tax Reduction for Modifications To Make a Home More Accessible for a Person with a Disability

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VEROW	OTP-AM	H-277

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 and proposes to provide a means to offset the costs incurred by a person with a disability who modifies a residence, such as by installing ramps or stairlifts, widening entryways or remodeling, to make it more accessible for that person. The offset could be in the form of an income tax credit or an exemption from property taxes.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-277)

This amendment replaces the bill and creates an income tax credit for expenses incurred for certain modifications to make a homestead accessible to an individual with a disability or physical hardship who resides or will reside in the homestead if the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income does not exceed \$55,000. The credit is capped at \$1,000,000 annually.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 367 An Act To Protect the Income of Service Workers

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRAKEY	ONTP	

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This bill exempts from Maine income tax all tips included in federal adjusted gross income.

LD 409 An Act To Lower the Individual Income Tax Incrementally to Zero

Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'CONNOR BRAKEY	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill provides for the phase-out of the individual income tax. Income taxes are reduced 25 percent beginning with 2016 tax years. A calculation is done each following year, and further 25 percent reductions are implemented when revenues exceed the amount of revenue for the year preceding the previous reduction.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-212)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, clarifies the timing and calculation of future income tax reductions provided in the bill.

LD 432 An Act To Exempt Fuel Purchased for Off-road Use in Commercial Construction and Wood Harvesting Equipment from Sales and Use Tax

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BURNS CAMPBELL R	ONTP	

This bill provides a sales and use tax refund or exemption for fuel purchased for off-road use in commercial wood harvesting or commercial construction equipment.

See also LD 30 and LD 290.

LD 444 An Act To Allow a Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Credit for a Vehicle No Longer in Use

PUBLIC 87

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THIBODEAU GILLWAY	OTP	

This bill extends the motor vehicle excise tax credit to situations where the use of the vehicle is totally discontinued. This bill requires the owner of the vehicle to provide a signed statement attesting that the vehicle from which the credit is being transferred is totally discontinued and states that if the owner who has totally discontinued use of a vehicle later seeks to register that vehicle, no excise tax credits may be applied with respect to the registration of that vehicle or any subsequent transfer of that vehicle's registration.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 87 extends the motor vehicle excise tax credit for destroyed, junked or abandoned motor vehicles to situations where the use of a vehicle is totally discontinued. This law requires the owner of the vehicle to provide a signed statement attesting that use of the vehicle from which the credit is being transferred is totally discontinued and states that if the owner who has totally discontinued use of a vehicle later seeks to register that vehicle, no excise tax credits may be applied with respect to the registration of that vehicle or any subsequent

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transfer of that vehicle's registration.

LD 497 An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Rebate for Certain Organizations ONTP
Providing Services to Disabled Veterans

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WINSOR HAMPER	ONTP	

This bill provides a sales tax exemption or refund for meals and lodging connected with seminars and retreats provided by certain nonprofit veterans' services organizations to veterans with service-related disabilities and their families.

LD 498 An Act To Restore the Super Credit for Substantially Increased CARRIED OVER
Research and Development

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING MCCORMICK	OTP-AM	H-96

This bill restores the availability of the super credit for substantially increased research and development, retroactive to January 1, 2014, restricts the carry-over period to five years and increases the limit on the credit to no more than 50 percent of the taxpayer's tax due after the allowance of other tax credits.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-96)

This amendment amends the definition of "super credit base amount" to provide that the base amount is reset if the taxpayer did not claim the super credit for three consecutive taxable years immediately prior to January 1, 2014.

LD 499 An Act To Create Jobs in the Forest Products Industry ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY	ONTP	

This bill provides a complete exemption from property tax for land enrolled under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law when the forest products harvested from that land are processed solely at mills located in Maine.

LD 500 Resolve, To Create a Working Group To Develop Solutions To Meet the RESOLVE 49
Needs for Municipal Volunteer Personnel

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EVES DUTREMBLE	OTP-AM	H-376 H-418 LAJOIE S-333 MASON

Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

This bill authorizes municipalities to provide benefits of up to \$750 for persons who serve as volunteer firefighters or volunteer emergency medical services personnel.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-376)

This amendment strikes the bill and replaces it with a resolve that establishes the Municipal Volunteer Working Group to find solutions to the recruitment, training and retention problems facing volunteer fire departments and volunteer emergency medical services providers in the State.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-418)

This amendment strikes the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-333)

This amendment decreases the number of members on the working group from nine to seven by decreasing the number of members of the Senate from two to one and the number of members of the House of Representatives from three to two. The amendment also limits to three the number of meetings authorized for the working group.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 49 took effect without the Governor's signature and establishes the Municipal Volunteer Working Group to find solutions to the recruitment, training and retention problems facing volunteer fire departments and volunteer emergency medical services providers in the State.

LD 501 An Act To Amend the Estate Tax Laws ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STUCKEY	ONTP	

This bill reduces the \$2,000,000 Maine exclusion amount for the Maine estate tax to \$1,000,000 for the estates of decedents who die on or after January 1, 2016.

LD 502 An Act To Repeal the Service Provider Tax on Private Nonmedical Institutions and To Offset That Revenue Loss ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAREAN MCCORMICK	ONTP	

This bill repeals the service provider tax on private nonmedical institutions and expands the tax to cover motion picture entertainment and certain winter sports. The revenue from the newly covered services is dedicated to fund medical services eligible for matching federal Medicaid funding currently funded by revenue from the tax on private nonmedical institutions. The bill also corrects an oversight by identifying the application of revenue from the service provider tax on group residential services for persons with brain injuries.

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LD 503 An Act To Provide Local Sales Tax Increment Disbursements

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHNECK COLLINS	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires payments beginning in fiscal year 2017-18 to municipalities of an amount, as determined by the State Tax Assessor, equal to five percent of the difference between the sales and use tax revenue attributable to the municipality in a fiscal year and the comparable amounts for fiscal year 2016-17, referred to as the "local sales tax increment." The base year for determining the local sales tax increment is reset in fiscal year 2020-21 and every four years thereafter. The amount received may not reduce any other state aid or revenue sharing received by that municipality, and the municipality must use the amount received to reduce property taxes by the same amount. The Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund receives the local sales tax increment payment for the unorganized territory and is subject to the same requirement to use the revenue to reduce property taxes.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-231)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, removes the requirement in the bill that a municipality use local sales tax increment revenue to reduce the property tax levy and clarifies the timing of the calculation of the sales tax increment.

**LD 514 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Location of Motor Vehicle
Excise Tax Collection for Motor Vehicles Owned by Public Utilities**

PUBLIC 98

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BUCKLAND SAVIELLO	OTP-AM	H-94

This bill treats public utilities like other corporations and partnerships by requiring the payment of excise tax to the place where the owner has a permanent location where its motor vehicles are kept rather than the location where its registered or main office is located..

Committee Amendment "A" (H-94)

This amendment adds an effective date of January 1, 2017.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 98 requires a public utility to pay motor vehicle excise tax to the place where the utility has a permanent location where its motor vehicles are kept rather than the location where its registered or main office is located.

**LD 519 An Act To Allow Telecommunications Infrastructure Investment in
Development Districts for Municipalities and Plantations**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY SKOLFIELD	ONTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

This bill adds cellular telephone towers and broadband infrastructure to the list of authorized project costs in the tax increment financing laws governing development districts.

LD 541 An Act To Promote Sustainability in Home Ownership for First-time Home Buyers ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRYANT LIBBY	ONTP	

This bill expands the homestead property tax exemption to include homeowners who have owned a homestead for less than 12 months but have completed a state-approved home ownership education course.

LD 542 An Act To Reduce Property Taxes ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODE	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 which proposes to reduce the property tax burden by improving property tax relief programs.

LD 550 An Act To Improve the Process for Obtaining an Adjustment in State Valuation Due to Sudden and Severe Reduction in Municipal Valuation PUBLIC 236 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL R ROSEN	OTP-AM	H-323

This bill provides that, for fiscal year 2015-16 and beyond, in the event a municipality is approved for an adjustment to its state property valuation due to a sudden and severe disruption in its municipal valuation, that adjusted state valuation is the property fiscal capacity for purposes of determining municipal contributions under the school funding formula. This bill also provides that the 2015 valuation of the paper mill located in the Town of Bucksport is equal to its 2014 valuation and sets the property fiscal capacity for the Town of Bucksport at \$568,950 [sic] for fiscal year 2015-16.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-323)

This amendment strikes the provisions of the bill amending the school funding formula and regarding the Town of Bucksport and instead amends one of the conditions of eligibility for an adjustment of state valuation for sudden and severe disruption of municipal valuation by providing that a municipality is eligible if the municipality's equalized tax rate of residential property following the sudden and severe disruption in municipal valuation exceeds the most recent state average of residential property for which data is available.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 236 amends one of the conditions of eligibility for an adjustment of state valuation for sudden and severe disruption of municipal valuation by providing that a municipality is eligible if the municipality's equalized tax rate of residential property following the sudden and severe disruption in municipal valuation exceeds the most recent state average of residential property for which data is available.

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Public Law 2015, chapter 236 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 23, 2015.

LD 565 An Act To Authorize Municipalities To Impose Service Charges on Tax-exempt Property Owned by Certain Nonprofit Organizations ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LOCKMAN GRATWICK	ONTP	

This bill authorizes a municipality to impose service charges on property that is exempt from property tax because it is owned and used by entities in the following categories: benevolent and charitable institutions; literary and scientific institutions; chambers of commerce and boards of trade; fraternal organizations operating under a lodge system; and property jointly owned or used by those entities. Service charges may not be imposed on property exempt as a house of worship or parsonage or a veterans' organization.

Service charges may only be imposed if:

1. The property is owned by an entity that owns exempt property in the municipality that would have a total assessed value of at least \$1,000,000 if assessed for property tax purposes;
2. The property is owned by, rented to or otherwise occupied by a person or entity that provides any employee or independent contractor providing professional management services with compensation, exclusive of health benefits, in excess of four times the median household income for the county in which the property is located;
3. The municipality adopts by referendum an ordinance imposing service charges;
4. The municipality imposes service charges on all other property in that municipality that is within the same category of exempt property;
5. The calculation of service charges imposed by municipalities is based on the square footage of building space that is exempt from taxation unless the municipality determines that a different measure more accurately represents the cost of services for which the service charges are imposed; and
6. Service charges must be reduced by any payments made or services provided to the municipality by the exempt entity in lieu of taxes.

The bill provides that municipal ordinances adopted before the effective date of the legislation remain valid even if they do not comply with the new requirements. The bill retains the requirement in current law that service charges may not exceed two percent of the entity's gross annual revenue.

LD 575 An Act To Provide Property Tax Relief to Maine's Working Families ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAREAN LIBBY	ONTP	

This bill increases the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption from \$10,000 to \$20,000. In order to offset the increased cost to the State of reimbursing municipalities for the revenue loss attributable to the increase in the homestead exemption, this bill also extends the sales and use tax to amusement, entertainment and recreation services, such as admission fees to entertainment venues and performances, including movies, theaters and

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amusement parks, participation fees, including for bowling, golf or skiing, and fees for entertainment services, including those provided by bands, orchestras, disc jockeys and comedians.

LD 581 An Act To Clarify the Municipal Development District Law ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SIROCKI	ONTP	

This bill defines the terms "blighted area" and "credit enhancement agreement" in the municipal development district laws and provides a mechanism for the use of credit enhancement agreements in blighted areas. It also requires greater advance notice of public hearings on development districts and broadens the range of parties entitled to receive direct notice of such hearings.

LD 590 An Act To Exempt a Fee for a Paper or Plastic Single-use Carry-out Bag from Tax PUBLIC 150 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO CAMPBELL R	OTP-AM	S-15

This bill exempts from sales tax any fee placed on a paper or plastic single-use carry-out bag.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-15)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 150 excludes from sales tax any amount charged for a paper or plastic carry-out bag.

Public Law 2015, chapter 150 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 9, 2015.

LD 592 An Act To Extend to Certain Fruit and Vegetable Growers the Sales Tax Exemption for Fuel Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITTEMORE MCCABE	OTP-AM ONTP	S-136

Current law allows a person to request a refund of the amount of sales tax paid on the purchase of electricity used in commercial agricultural production. Current law also provides an exemption from sales tax for 95% of the sale price of fuel and electricity purchased for use at a manufacturing facility.

This bill, beginning January 1, 2016, extends the sales tax exemption for fuel to a greenhouse facility that occupies at least 1,000,000 square feet of indoor space that is operated by an agricultural employer that employs at least 100 employees and is engaged in the year-round commercial production of fruits or vegetables. The ability of that agricultural employer to obtain a refund for sales tax paid on electricity used in commercial agriculture production is not affected by this bill.

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Committee Amendment "A" (S-136)

This amendment, the majority report of the committee, removes language from the bill that deems certain greenhouse facilities to be manufacturing facilities and establishes the proposed sales tax exemption independently of the exemption for manufacturing facilities.

The substance of the bill was included in the biennial budget bill, Public Law 2015, chapter 267, Part KKKK. Please see LD 1019, summarized under the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

LD 594 An Act To Allow the Creation of a Local Option Sales Tax by Referendum

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VALENTINO JORGENSEN	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill allows a municipality to impose a local option sales tax, which may be seasonal, of no more than one percent by local referendum. Certain items, such as motor vehicles and major household appliances, are excluded from the local option sales tax.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-135)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 614 An Act Regarding the Excise Tax Levied on Used Motor Vehicles

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAKER LANGLEY	ONTP	

This bill specifies that a motor vehicle being registered for a second time during the first model year of that motor vehicle or a motor vehicle that is still in its first model year but is not covered by a manufacturer's new car warranty is considered a used vehicle and requires the excise tax to be based on the second model year.

LD 625 An Act To Increase the Tax Exemption for Pensions

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER MAKER	ONTP	

This bill increases from \$10,000 to \$15,000 the maximum amount of pension benefits that may be excluded from taxable income for Maine income tax purposes.

See also LD 27 and LD 760.

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LD 644 An Act To Exempt Annuity Considerations from Tax

**Died Between
Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITTEMORE O'CONNOR	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill phases out the tax imposed upon annuity considerations. The current tax of two percent is decreased by 0.5 percent each year beginning in 2016 until it is eliminated beginning January 1, 2019.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-134)

This amendment, the majority report of the committee, makes technical changes to the bill to reference the correct tax years. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 646 An Act To Provide Incentives for Municipal Cooperation and Shared Services

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY		

This bill provides an incentive for municipalities to enter into interlocal cooperative agreements by sheltering a portion of the municipalities' equalized valuations dedicated to the financial support of the joint services. Sheltering of value would be likely to increase the municipalities' shares of General Purpose Aid to local schools, municipal revenue sharing and reduce the municipalities' share of county taxes.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 648 An Act To Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for Maine Residents

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY STUCKEY	ONTP	

This bill increases the earned income tax credit for Maine residents from five percent of the federal earned income credit to 20 percent of the federal earned income credit. This bill also repeals the eligibility of nonresidents and part-year residents for the Maine earned income tax credit.

See also LD 96 and LD 963.

LD 689 An Act To Support Maine's Tourism Marketing Promotion Program by Eliminating the Sales Tax Exemption for Casual Rentals for Fewer Than 15 Days a Year

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROSEN WARD	ONTP OTP-AM	

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This bill eliminates the exemption from sales tax currently allowed on the rental of living quarters for fewer than 15 days a year.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-132)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 718 An Act To Avoid Loss of Revenue to the State ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN LIBBY	ONTP	

This bill continues the sales tax on lodging at eight percent on and after July 1, 2015 in order to avoid the decrease to seven percent scheduled under current law.

LD 740 An Act To Sustain Maine's Primary Care Professional Workforce PUBLIC 108

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS ALLEY	OTP-AM	S-56

This bill expands eligibility for the income tax credit for eligible new primary care professionals to include persons already practicing in underserved areas and certified as eligible by the Department of Health and Human Services in order to facilitate retention as well as recruitment of eligible professionals.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-56)

This amendment adds an application date to the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 108 expands eligibility for the income tax credit for eligible new primary care professionals, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, to include persons already practicing in underserved areas and certified as eligible by the Department of Health and Human Services in order to facilitate retention as well as recruitment of eligible professionals

LD 759 An Act To Establish a Sales Tax Holiday ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KINNEY M EDGECOMB P	ONTP	

This bill exempts from sales tax sales of clothing and school supplies occurring on the second Saturday of August each year.

See also LD 932.

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LD 760 An Act To Increase the Deduction for Pension Income ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LOCKMAN BRAKEY	ONTP	

This bill increases from \$10,000 to \$35,000 the maximum amount of pension benefits that are not included in income for Maine income tax purposes. The increased deduction applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015.

See also LD 27 and LD 625.

LD 769 An Act To Reduce Tax Expenditures ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAVERS DAVIS	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to require the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services, the Department of Labor and the Department of Economic and Community Development, jointly and based on the report of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability regarding Maine tax expenditures, as required by Resolve 2013, chapter 115, to develop a plan to reduce or eliminate tax expenditures that do not maintain or increase employment within Maine.

See also LD 934 and LD 941.

LD 786 An Act To Help Property Tax Payers ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAVERS LIBBY	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to help property tax payers by ensuring that laws requiring funding by the State for municipal revenue services, government assistance and education are complied with and possibly enhanced.

See also LD 899, LD 910, LD 980 and LD 1060.

LD 787 An Act To Provide Tax Credits for Adult Day Care and Respite and Hospice Care PUBLIC 340

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HARLOW	ONTP OTP-AM	H-95 S-72 SAVIELLO S-328 HAMPER

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This bill expands the income tax credit for child and dependent care expenses to include expenses paid for adult day care, respite care and hospice care.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-95)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-72)

This amendment clarifies the intent of the bill by specifying that the credit is for expenses paid for a dependent for adult day care, hospice services and respite care. To distinguish the new credit from the child care expenses credit, the adult dependent care expenses credit only applies to dependents who are at least 21 years of age. Also, unlike the child care expenses credit, the expenses do not have to be incurred to enable the taxpayer to be gainfully employed. Like the child care expenses credit, the expenses may not exceed \$3,000 for one dependent or \$6,000 for two or more dependents and the credit is refundable up to \$500.

Senate Amendment "A" To Senate Amendment "A" (S-328)

This amendment adds an effective date of January 1, 2016 and changes the application date of the tax credit to apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 340 expands the income tax credit for child and dependent care expenses for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016 to include expenses paid for a dependent who is at least 21 years of age for adult day care, respite care and hospice care. Expenses do not have to be incurred to enable the taxpayer to be gainfully employed and may not exceed \$3,000 for one dependent or \$6,000 for two or more dependents. The credit is refundable up to \$500.

LD 819 An Act Regarding the Taxation of Kombucha

Veto Sustained

Sponsor(s)

ALFOND
HICKMAN

Committee Report

OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

S-213

This bill exempts kombucha, a fermented tea-based drink, from the excise tax imposed on malt liquor, low-alcohol spirits, wine and hard cider.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-213)

This amendment replaces the bill and provides for the taxation of kombucha manufactured in or imported into the State of 35¢ per gallon, the same rate at which hard cider is taxed.

LD 835 An Act To Amend the Individual Income Tax Laws

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

TIPPING-SPITZ
HASKELL

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill creates a new income tax bracket with a rate of 10 percent and a threshold of \$120,000 for single filers, \$180,000 for head-of-household filers and \$240,000 for persons filing joint returns.

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See also LD 95 and LD 1269.

LD 836 An Act To Exempt the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars ONTP
from the Sales Tax

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT LIBBY	ONTP	

This bill provides an exemption from the sales and use tax for sales made to posts of the American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars.

LD 859 An Act To Improve Camping Opportunities in Maine ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLLINS TURNER	ONTP	

This bill repeals the definitions of "tourist camp" and "trailer camp" and replaces those terms with the term "campground" in the Sales and Use Tax Law. This bill exempts from sales and use tax rental fees charged to a person who resides for 28 days or longer at one campground. This bill also exempts from the sales and use tax the rental of a campsite as long as nothing else of value is given by the owner of that campsite to the renter.

LD 867 An Act To Provide Tax Fairness and To Lower Medical Expenses for CARRIED OVER
Patients under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY MALABY	OTP-AM	S-178

This bill allows a taxpayer, either an individual or corporation, that operates a registered dispensary of medical marijuana pursuant to the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act to deduct from income the costs of operating that registered dispensary. The bill also allows a qualified patient to deduct from income the costs of medical marijuana purchased by that qualifying patient.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-178)

This amendment adds references to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure proper administration of the deductions created by the bill.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 871 An Act To Provide for Cooperation between Municipalities with Tax ONTP
Increment Financing Districts

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY	ONTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

This bill allows contiguous municipalities with separate development districts to share the costs for a project that is authorized for inclusion in a development program.

LD 898 An Act To Reduce Student Loan Debt through an Expansion of the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHENETTE ALFOND	OTP-AM	H-229

This bill allows students who are pursuing or have pursued a course of study available only at a public institution outside the State as part of the New England regional student program offered by the New England Board of Higher Education to be eligible for the educational opportunity tax credit, starting with the tax year beginning January 1, 2016.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-229)

This amendment extends to a graduate who pursued a course of study available only at a public institution outside the State as part of the New England regional student program offered by the New England Board of Higher Education the same allowance as is provided for graduates of Maine accredited institutions, which provides that a graduate is not disqualified if 30 or fewer of the graduate's credit hours were obtained from a nonqualifying non-Maine community college, college or university. The amendment also makes changes to the definition of "principal cap" in order to avoid misinterpretation.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 899 An Act To Ensure a Stable Percentage of Revenue Sharing for Municipalities ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EVANGELOS LIBBY	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the state-municipal revenue sharing law to ensure that five percent of the receipts from the sales, income and service provider taxes continues to be distributed to municipalities to allow them to stabilize the property tax burden and finance municipal services.

See also LD 910, LD 980 and LD 1060.

LD 900 An Act To Make Public Certain Tax Information Related to Municipal Valuation ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARRIN WHITTEMORE	ONTP	

This bill allows a taxpayer's proprietary information, which is considered confidential information exempt from the freedom of access laws, to be shared with the municipal officers meeting in executive session when such

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information has the potential to reduce the valuation of the municipality by more than five percent due to a reduction in the property valuation of that taxpayer.

LD 910 An Act To Fully Fund Municipal Revenue Sharing ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POWERS PATRICK	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the method of funding state-municipal revenue sharing to ensure that it remains a reliable source of funds for stabilizing the municipal property tax burden and aiding in financing all municipal services.

See also LD 899, LD 980 and LD 1060.

LD 922 An Act To Provide an Income Tax Exemption for Pension or Retirement Plans for Veterans Who Are Totally Disabled ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDEN LIBBY	ONTP	

This bill provides a complete exemption from Maine income tax for United States military retirement pension benefits for service as a veteran in the active or reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard received by a person who is totally disabled.

LD 930 An Act To Attract Young Families to Maine and Keep Young Families in Maine by Expanding the Child Care Tax Credit Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND CHENETTE	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill amends the income tax credit for child care expenses by increasing the credit from 25 percent of the federal tax credit allowable for child and dependent care expenses to 100 percent of that federal tax credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015. This bill also makes the credit completely refundable.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-65)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 932 An Act To Designate a Sales Tax Holiday ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ MAREAN	ONTP	

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This bill, beginning in 2016, establishes an annual sales tax holiday on the second Saturday in August to exempt from sales tax sales of items of clothing with a price of \$100 or less, items of school supplies with a price of \$100 or less and individual computers, not including those used in a trade or business, with a price of \$1,500 or less.

See also LD 759.

LD 934 An Act To Create Transparency in Maine's Economic Development Spending ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILL STANLEY	ONTP	

This bill requires the disclosure of the names of businesses benefiting from economic development spending and tax expenditures in excess of \$5,000 annually. The Department of Economic and Community Development is required to submit information regarding reportable economic development spending to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services, Office of Tax Policy annually. The Bureau of Revenue Services is required to identify businesses receiving \$5,000 or more annually from economic development tax expenditures. The Office of Tax Policy is required to submit a report annually to the Legislature regarding economic development spending and tax expenditures and make the information available on its publicly accessible website.

See also LD 769 and LD 941.

LD 941 An Act To Improve Tax Expenditure Transparency and Accountability PUBLIC 344

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS ROTUNDO	OTP-AM	S-296 S-322 HAMPER

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill, using the report of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability regarding Maine tax expenditures, as required by Resolve 2013, chapter 115, proposes to build upon that work and improve the evaluation process for tax expenditures and tax credits, including providing better information to the public about the cost and benefits of those expenditures and credits.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-296)

This amendment replaces the bill and establishes a process for legislative review of tax expenditures based on the report of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability pursuant to Resolve 2013, chapter 115.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-322)

This amendment provides funding for the new positions from lapsed balances in the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability for fiscal year 2015-16 and from the Legislature for fiscal year 2016-17.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 344 establishes a process for legislative review of tax expenditures based on the report of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability pursuant to Resolve 2013, chapter 115.

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LD 963 An Act To Strengthen the Benefits of the State Earned Income Tax Credit for Childless Workers ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STUCKEY	ONTP	

This bill increases the state earned income tax credit for an individual with no qualifying child from five percent to 50 percent of the federal credit and makes it refundable.

See also LD 96 and LD 648.

LD 965 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Permit the Freezing of Property Taxes on the Homes of Maine Residents Who Are 65 Years of Age or Older ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARRY COLLINS	ONTP	

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to enact a law freezing property taxes on a primary residence of a person who is 65 years of age or older and who owns the residence if the residence is a single-family residence, no member of the household is less than 55 years of age and the residence is the only property owned by any household member. If the property ceases to be the primary residence of a person who is 65 years of age or older, the property must be taxed in the same manner as other property.

LD 967 An Act To Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services To Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2015-16 PUBLIC 197 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-210

This bill establishes municipal cost components for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory that would be paid for by a municipality and that constitute the property tax obligation in the unorganized territory.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-210)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 197 establishes municipal cost components for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory that would be paid for by a municipality and that constitute the property tax obligation in the unorganized territory.

Public Law 2015, chapter 197 was enacted as an emergency measure effective on June 16, 2015.

Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

LD 973 An Act To Ensure That Nicotine Products Are Taxed Equally

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCABE		

This bill includes an electronic cigarette in the definition of "cigarette" for the purpose of assessing the cigarette tax.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 980 An Act To Restore Revenue Sharing

**Died Between
Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TEPLER BREEN	OTP-AM ONTP	H-321

This bill restores state-municipal revenue sharing by the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 by transferring from state-municipal revenue sharing each fiscal year for the next three fiscal years an increasingly lesser amount than the fiscal year 2014-15 amount.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-321)

This amendment, the majority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

House Amendment "A" (H-390)

This amendment removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

See also LD 786, LD 899, LD 910 and LD 1060.

**LD 1000 An Act To Define Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices for Purposes of the
Sales Tax Law**

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GIDEON ALFOND	OTP-AM	H-110

This bill creates definitions for "prosthetic or orthotic device" and "prescription" within the sales tax exemption laws. It attempts to clarify the sales tax exemption for prosthetic devices and exempts orthotic devices sold by prescription.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-110)

This amendment clarifies the term "health care practitioner" who may prescribe potentially exempt items under the bill by adding a cross-reference to the definition of that term in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24, section 2502.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

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LD 1001 An Act To Enact a New Hire Tax Credit and To Create Initiatives To Help Families Move from Assistance to Employment

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE	ONTP	

This bill creates a new hire tax credit for an employer in the amount of 50 percent of the wages of a new employee who was a recipient of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and who is employed at least 20 hours per week on average by the employer. This bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop recommended legislation to adjust the level of assistance under state benefits programs based upon earned income for low-income recipients of state assistance who are employed by an employer who receives a new hire tax credit and to recommend other measures in statute, rule and policy that will enable low-income recipients of state assistance to obtain stable and lasting employment.

LD 1004 An Act To Provide Incentives To Foster Economic Growth and Build Infrastructure in the State by Encouraging Visual Media Production

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PICCHIOTTI WHITTEMORE	ONTP OTP-AM	H-326

This bill makes the following changes to the visual media production certification process, reimbursement and credit:

1. It specifies that a visual media production expense must be for preproduction, production and postproduction work performed in Maine;
2. It increases the cap on wages that can be included as a visual media production expense from \$50,000 per individual to \$250,000 per individual;
3. It requires the applicant for visual media production certification to agree to pay an administrative fee before being reimbursed. The administrative fee is 0.2 percent of the reimbursement amount, except that the minimum amount of the fee may not be less than \$200 and the maximum amount of the fee may not exceed \$5,000;
4. It specifies that the reimbursement for certified production wages is only for wages paid to below-the-line personnel, which includes nonstarring cast members and the technical production and postproduction staff of a visual media production company;
5. It increases the reimbursement rate from 12 percent to 25 percent of certified production wages that are paid to Maine residents and from 10 percent to 15 percent for certified production wages paid to non-Maine residents;
6. It repeals the certified visual media production tax credit and instead provides for the reimbursement of 25 percent of nonwage visual media production expenses as long as the company has at least \$30,000 in visual media production expenses from the certified production;
7. It specifies that, in order to be eligible for either the certified production wage reimbursement or the nonwage visual media production expense reimbursement, at least 50 percent of the below-the-line personnel, not including extras, must be Maine residents, unless the company certifies that it cannot meet this requirement due to an insufficient number of qualified Maine residents, and either the visual media production expenses exceed 50 percent of the total production expenses or at least 50% of the total principle photography days occur in Maine; and

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8. It specifies that a person claiming the Pine Tree Development Zone tax credit is not eligible to get the visual media production reimbursement.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-326)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the bill and adds provisions establishing a refundable income tax credit for a major visual media production, which is defined as a visual media production with an overall budget that is greater than \$1,000,000. The credit applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015. The amendment also requires the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over taxation matters to review by December 1, 2021 the reimbursements and tax credits for visual media production companies and make a recommendation to the Legislature with regard to retention, repeal or modification of the provisions. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

See also LD 1164.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 1007 Resolve, To Study the Tax Exemption Provided to Nonprofit Entities ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BURNS TUELL	ONTP	

This resolve is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This resolve proposes to examine property tax exemptions for property of nonprofit organizations, including land trusts, and determine whether the loss of revenue to a municipality is outweighed by the benefits provided to that municipality by the tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

LD 1055 An Act To Allow a Municipality To Abate Taxes Assessed on Property That Is Destroyed ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COOPER BREEN	ONTP	

This bill allows municipal assessors, or the State Tax Assessor for property in the unorganized territory, to abate the property taxes of residential real property that, due to destruction by fire, explosion or natural disaster, suffers at least a 50 percent decrease in just value to improvements on that residential real property. The abatement is limited to property that qualifies as a homestead under the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption. For an individual homestead, the amount of the abatement is limited to 10 percent of the overlay for the property tax year in which the abatement is sought. If more than one homestead requests an abatement in a single property tax year, the aggregate amount of the abatements is limited to 50 percent of the overlay for the property tax year in which the multiple abatements are sought.

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LD 1060 An Act To Strengthen Revenue Sharing ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODE	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to make adjustments to the state-municipal revenue sharing law to ensure the stability and continuity of a revenue stream for municipalities.

See also LD 899, LD 910 and LD 980.

LD 1070 An Act To Retain More Retirees in Maine ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO	ONTP	

This bill reduces taxes for retirees by phasing out over four years the income tax on retirement benefit plan and individual retirement account benefits. The bill also phases in over four years complete conformity of the Maine estate tax with the exclusion amount under the federal estate tax.

LD 1072 An Act To Encourage Maine's Economic Competitiveness ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK LOCKMAN	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the laws governing taxation to improve investment opportunities in the State.

LD 1095 An Act To Enhance the Property Tax Fairness Credit for Maine's Low-income Seniors and Other Low-income Residents Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EVES BREEN	ONTP OTP-AM OTP-AM	

This bill amends the property tax fairness credit for property tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015 in the following ways.

1. For purposes of calculating the benefit base upon which the credit is based, it increases the amount of property taxes paid or rent constituting property taxes paid that may be used in calculating the credit.
2. It increases the percentage of rent paid that may be considered rent constituting property taxes from 15 percent of the gross rent actually paid to 18 percent of the gross rent actually paid.

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3. It changes the calculation of the tax credit to increase it to 100 percent, instead of the current 50 percent, of the amount by which the benefit base exceeds five percent, instead of the current six percent, of the resident's income.

4. It increases the maximum credit for residents 65 years of age or older to \$2,000 from \$900 and for residents under 65 years of age to \$1,500 from \$600.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-232)

This amendment, a minority report of the committee, removes the provisions in the bill that change the calculation of rent constituting property taxes and decrease from six percent to five percent the income threshold for purposes of calculation of the property tax fairness credit. This amendment also removes incorrect references to "property tax year."

Committee Amendment "B" (H-233)

This amendment, a minority report of the committee, changes the bill to a resolve directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to submit information and analysis to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation regarding the discontinued Maine Residents Property Tax Program and the property tax fairness credit and authorizes the committee to submit related legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

See also LD 76.

LD 1126	An Act To Provide Property Tax Deferral for Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COOPER GRATWICK	ONTP	

This bill reinstates the State's property tax deferral program, which was in effect for applications filed before April 1, 1991. The bill modifies the program to include households with at least one individual who is 65 years of age or older or who retired from gainful employment due to disability and to surviving spouses who are at least 60 years of age, and provides that household income must be less than \$40,000. This limit is indexed for inflation in 2016 and annually thereafter.

LD 1142	An Act Regarding the Taxation of Out-of-state Pensions	CARRIED OVER
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TURNER BURNS	OTP-AM	H-340

This bill avoids double taxation of certain employee contributions to retirement benefit plans made in other states by exempting from Maine income tax the portion of retirement benefits attributable to the taxpayer's contribution to an employee retirement plan or an individual retirement account that was taxed by another jurisdiction.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-340)

This amendment provides that the proposed income tax exemption for certain income from out-of-state pensions applies only to the extent the income is included in federal adjusted gross income and not deducted under the general pension deduction. The amendment also adds a definition of "another jurisdiction."

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This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 1146 An Act To Increase Investment in Maine

**Died Between
Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MALABY BRAKEY	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill taxes capital gains derived from the sale of real property held in Maine for business purposes for more than one year at three percent rather than the general income tax rate.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-325)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, replaces the special income tax rate provided in the bill for certain capital gains derived from the sale of real property held for business purposes for more than one year with an income tax credit for those gains realized during the taxable year attributable to real property in the State. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 1148 An Act To Implement a Local Ballot Referendum for Municipalities To Disallow Tax-exempt Status to Large Land Trusts

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KINNEY J BURNS	ONTP	

This bill allows a municipality, by referendum, to deny tax-exempt status to land trusts that are at least 20 acres in size. If the municipality denies tax-exempt status for a land trust, it must deny tax-exempt status to all land trusts of at least 20 acres located in that municipality.

LD 1159 An Act To Modify the Property Tax Abatement Laws

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO	ONTP	

This bill limits the amount of property taxes an assessing authority may abate for hardship, poverty or inability to pay to the amount of taxes owed on the residence and no more than two acres of land owned by the person seeking abatement.

LD 1164 An Act To Promote Tourism and Foster Economic Development

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HAMANN VALENTINO	ONTP	

This bill provides a refundable income tax credit for expenses and wages directly incurred in Maine by a major

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visual media production company, including for content that is produced for the Internet, in an amount of up to 25 percent of production expenses if the overall budget is greater than \$1,000,000, not including wages for starring cast or the director, writer or producers. The credit must be claimed in the taxable year in which the major visual media production is completed.

A major visual media production company must submit a nonrefundable application fee, which is 0.2 percent of the estimated tax credit but may be no less than \$200 and no more than \$5,000. The Department of Economic and Community Development may deny a certificate for a visual media production or a major visual media production for any reason. The department is required to deny a certificate if it would qualify the production for tax credits in excess of the funds appropriated for that purpose.

Many of the provisions of this bill were incorporated in the committee amendment to LD 1004.

LD 1254 An Act To Implement and Fund an Integrated Beach Management Program

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FOLEY COLLINS		

This bill establishes a funding mechanism for an integrated coastal beach management program. It imposes a \$1 per day fee, effective October 1, 2015, on the rental, between May 1st and October 31st, of living quarters in any hotel, rooming house or tourist or trailer camp, to be deposited into the Beach Management Fund established by the bill to be used to develop coordinated programs for technical assistance to municipalities and homeowners; to provide assistance in the development and implementation of local beach management, preservation and restoration projects; and to reimburse the department for administrative costs. This bill also establishes the Beach Advisory Group to advise the Department of Environmental Protection and report to the Legislature on matters related to the management, preservation and restoration of beaches in the State. This bill directs and provides criteria for the department in coordination with other state agencies to develop and maintain a priority list ranking all beaches within the State based on suitability for beach nourishment, dune restoration, land acquisition or other enhancement techniques and report priority recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2016.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 1269 An Act To Restore Some Progressivity and Fairness to the State Income Tax

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STUCKEY HASKELL	ONTP	

This bill adds a new marginal income tax rate of ten percent on income tax filers with taxable income in the top two percent of all taxpayers beginning with 2016 tax years. The State Tax Assessor is directed to determine the top taxable income threshold amount establishing the top two percent of taxpayers every three years. Bracket amounts are indexed for inflation in the years in which a new calculation is not made.

See also LD 95 and LD 835.

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LD 1287 An Act To Ensure That Tax Expenditures Create High-quality Jobs

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOHNSON GOODE	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill sets minimum standards in the level of wages and benefits and health care provided to employees and in scheduling employee shifts and hours for employers who receive the seed capital tax credit, the Pine Tree Zone credit, the new markets capital investment credit and employment tax increment financing. The bill requires the employers to report their employment data to Maine Revenue Services and for Maine Revenue Services to require the employers who are not in full compliance with the minimum standards to remit back to the State a pro rata amount of the tax credit or reimbursement received based upon their level of compliance with the wage, benefits, health care and scheduling requirements.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-279)

This amendment, the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill and establishes standards for ensuring that entities receiving the Pine Tree Development Zone tax credit, the seed capital investment tax credit or the new markets capital investment credit must certify that the credit results in high-quality jobs. The amendment requires annual reporting by credit recipients and a reduction in the percentage of the credit the taxpayer receives if not in compliance with the jobs requirements. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Finance Authority of Maine are required to evaluate penalties and enforcement procedures and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation by January 15, 2016. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 1299 An Act To Allow Educational Access for Families

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHERMAN	ONTP	

This bill establishes a scholarship granting organization credit to provide a Maine income tax credit to individuals and corporations who donate to scholarship granting organizations beginning in the 2016 tax year. Scholarship granting organizations are defined as organizations that provide educational scholarships, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, to public or private school students in kindergarten to grade 12 who are from households in which the household incomes are equal to or below 250 percent of the income guidelines used to qualify for federal Department of Health and Human Services programs.

The amount of the credit is the amount of voluntary cash contributions made to a scholarship granting organization, up to a maximum of \$1,000 annually of the tax owed. Scholarship granting organizations that receive such contributions are subject to reporting requirements. The credit is not available for an educational scholarship provided to a student who attends a school that employs a paid staff or board member who is a member or an immediate family member of a member of the scholarship granting organization.

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LD 1327 Resolve, Authorizing the State Tax Assessor To Convey the Interest of the State in Certain Real Estate in the Unorganized Territory

RESOLVE 27

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCORMICK CHACE	OTP-AM	S-133

This resolve authorizes the State Tax Assessor to convey the interest of the State in several parcels of real estate in the Unorganized Territory that were acquired by the State for nonpayment of property taxes..

Committee Amendment "A" (S-133)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 27 authorizes the State Tax Assessor to convey the interest of the State in several parcels of real estate in the Unorganized Territory that were acquired by the State for nonpayment of property taxes.

LD 1367 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Eliminate the Income Tax

Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE THIBODEAU	ONTP OTP-AM	

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the Legislature, beginning January 1, 2020, from enacting or imposing a tax upon the income of persons in this State and to prohibit the State from levying or collecting such a tax for any period beginning on or after January 1, 2020.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-324)

This amendment, the miority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 1374 An Act To Expand the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit

Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO	OTP-AM	S-151

This bill allows a graduate of the Maine Maritime Academy who is a resident of Maine but is employed in a position outside of Maine on a vessel at sea to qualify for the educational opportunity tax credit, which is currently available only to residents who are employed by an employer in Maine or who are deployed for military service.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-151)

This amendment removes the requirement that the taxpayer be a graduate of the Maine Maritime Academy.

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LD 1383 An Act To Attract Young People to Maine by Expanding the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND TIPPING-SPITZ	OTP-AM	

This bill makes the following changes to the educational opportunity tax credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

1. It expands eligibility to persons graduating after December, 31, 2015 from non-Maine community colleges, colleges and universities.
2. It expands the credit to cover graduate degrees.
3. It removes the requirement of Maine residency while attending school.
4. It permits coverage of refinanced and consolidated loans.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-150)

This amendment makes changes to clarify the intent of the bill and adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 1411 An Act To Amend the Tax Laws

PUBLIC 300

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCORMICK	OTP-AM	S-241 H-452 SHAW

Part A makes the following changes to the State's tax laws.

1. It requires qualified community development entities to notify the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services when a qualified equity investment has been transferred. A transfer of the qualified equity investment affects who is eligible to claim a tax credit under the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program in the year of the transfer and in any subsequent year.
2. It requires the Finance Authority of Maine to provide the Bureau of Revenue Services with copies of the annual reports currently required of qualified community development entities under the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program.
3. Currently the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife does not collect sales or use tax upon the registration of a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle by a person who is not a resident of Maine. This bill repeals that provision of the law.
4. It repeals a provision allowing for the disclosure of benefit information under the Circuitbreaker Program to a representative of a municipality that has adopted a municipal property tax assistance program since no benefits are allowed under the Circuitbreaker Program for claims filed on or after August 1, 2013.

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5. It authorizes disclosure to a Pine Tree Development Zone business of otherwise confidential tax information of a contractor or subcontractor that had assigned its claim to the business for sales or use tax reimbursement.
6. It clarifies that the State Tax Assessor may require unemployment compensation returns to be filed electronically. The Bureau of Revenue Services processes these returns and associated payments for the Department of Labor.
7. It repeals an obsolete reference to the Circuitbreaker Program in the property tax abatement law.
8. It strikes an erroneous reference in the property tax abatement law to a provision that mandates that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and other state officers, must provide the State Tax Assessor with information necessary for the valuing of land in the unorganized territory; the mandate has no relationship to the abatement of Maine property taxes.
9. It repeals definitions of two terms that are no longer used in the sales tax law: "forest land" and "forest products".
10. It clarifies the definition of "manufacturing facility" in the sales tax law.
11. It consolidates and simplifies the list of exclusions from the definition of "sale price" under the sales tax law by repealing references to four separate fees imposed by the State and enacting a general exclusion for any charge or fee imposed by state law.
12. It simplifies the sales tax exemption for coal, oil and wood.
13. It updates language with respect to the sales tax exemption for residential child care facilities so that it is consistent with the terminology employed by the Department of Health and Human Services.
14. It clarifies that the "immediate removal" sales tax exemption with respect to certain vehicles purchased or leased by nonresidents does not apply to any motor vehicle that is being leased on a short-term basis. Under current law, the exemption does not apply to an automobile that is being leased on a short-term basis.
15. It clarifies that the "immediate removal" sales tax exemption does not apply to a camper trailer or truck camper that is being leased on a short-term basis.
16. It clarifies existing language with respect to the partial sales tax exemption for certain watercraft purchased in Maine.
17. It updates language with respect to the sales tax exemption for child care facilities so that it is consistent with the terminology employed by the Department of Health and Human Services.
18. It updates the sales tax exemption for church-affiliated residential homes to delete obsolete language regarding charters granted by the Legislature.
19. It updates the sales tax exemption for food assistance purchases to include supplemental nutrition assistance program purchases and to delete an obsolete reference to food stamps.
20. It deletes obsolete language regarding the effective date of the sales tax exemption for tree seedlings used in commercial forestry.
21. It amends the sales tax imposed on certain casual sales to clarify that the tax does not apply to a sale made to a trust when the seller is the owner of 50 percent or more of the ownership interests in the trust. This change extends to trusts the same treatment extended to corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies and limited liability partnerships under current law.

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22. It clarifies the method of calculating the sales tax on the rental or lease of an automobile for one year or more.
23. It removes gender-specific language.
24. It makes a minor change to more equitably expand the sales tax refund provision for certain items withdrawn from inventory for use in another jurisdiction.
25. It repeals an obsolete sales tax refund provision that was in effect only for certain purchases made from April 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008.
26. It clarifies that required quarterly insurance premiums tax payments are estimated payments and not payments made based on quarterly returns. An annual return is required to report the tax liability, and to reconcile estimated tax payments made, for the year.
27. It replaces the term "personal home care" in the service provider tax law with the term "personal care home" to mirror the term used in the rules of the Department of Health and Human Services.
28. It repeals the law governing the sourcing of mobile telecommunications services. Mobile telecommunications services are now sourced for state taxation purposes to the state of primary use, in conformity with the federal Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act, Public Law 106-252.
29. It amends the application of revenues provision in the service provider tax in order to add a reference to specify that the tax is imposed on group residential services for persons with brain injuries.
30. It clarifies that a cigarette distributor's license, like all other licenses and certificates issued by the State Tax Assessor, is not a license within the meaning of that term in the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.
31. It clarifies that a tobacco products distributor's license, like all other licenses and certificates issued by the State Tax Assessor, is not a license within the meaning of that term in the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.
32. It clarifies that the Maine net income of a unitary business is determined in the same way that it is for a taxable corporation that is not a member of a unitary business. Maine net income in both cases is calculated on the basis of federal taxable income apportionable to Maine modified by the addition and subtraction modifications provided by Title 36, section 5200-A. The clarification is a technical change and consistent with long-standing administrative procedures and practice.
33. It updates references in the statutory provision governing the subtraction modification that allows an individual who is an owner of an electing S corporation to recapture the bonus depreciation add-backs made by the business in prior years when it was treated as a C corporation for federal and Maine income tax purposes. This change reflects long-standing statutory and administrative practice.
34. It updates references to the statutory provisions governing the pension deduction in order to reflect recent law changes.
35. It clarifies that returns claiming a refundable seed capital credit must be filed the calendar year following the calendar year during which the investment was made.

Part B requires the State Tax Assessor to obtain national criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for any person who provides or is assigned to provide services to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services under a contract or subcontract that the assessor determines involves access or a substantial possibility of access to the bureau's information technology systems or to

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confidential taxpayer information. An individual who is assigned to provide services to the bureau pursuant to such a contract must consent to having fingerprints taken for purposes of a background check before the individual may provide such services.

This Part also brings applicants for employment with the bureau's Office of Tax Policy within the existing background check process required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 194-B.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-241)

This amendment adds provisions to the bill to delete certain date-limiting references in the definition of the term "financial aid package" under the income tax credit for educational opportunity laws to conform to ongoing practice in applying a credit-hours proration factor in the tax credit provisions.

The amendment removes a section of the bill that strikes a reference to the former circuitbreaker program because of the continuing relevance of the former program in the administration of the municipal property tax abatement laws.

The amendment removes from the bill proposed changes to the term "personal home care" under the service provider tax and instead strikes those words from the service provider tax laws as they do not describe any service that is not otherwise subject to the tax.

The amendment amends two service provider tax exemptions to make the same changes that the bill made for parallel sales tax exemptions for child care facilities and certain church-affiliated residential homes.

The amendment adds a cross-reference that was inadvertently omitted in language requiring the State Police to take or cause to be taken certain fingerprints.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-452)

This amendment provides a sales and use tax exemption for snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles purchased by a nonresident individual unless the seller is a retailer in this State.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 300 makes the following changes to the State's tax laws.

1. It requires qualified community development entities to notify the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services when a qualified equity investment has been transferred. A transfer of the qualified equity investment affects who is eligible to claim a tax credit under the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program in the year of the transfer and in any subsequent year.
2. It requires the Finance Authority of Maine to provide the Bureau of Revenue Services with copies of the annual reports currently required of qualified community development entities under the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program.
3. Currently the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife does not collect sales or use tax upon the registration of a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle by a person who is not a resident of Maine. This law repeals that provision.
4. It repeals a provision allowing for the disclosure of benefit information under the Circuitbreaker Program to a representative of a municipality that has adopted a municipal property tax assistance program since no benefits are allowed under the Circuitbreaker Program for claims filed on or after August 1, 2013.
5. It authorizes disclosure to a Pine Tree Development Zone business of otherwise confidential tax information of a contractor or subcontractor that had assigned its claim to the business for sales or use tax reimbursement.

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6. It clarifies that the State Tax Assessor may require unemployment compensation returns to be filed electronically. The Bureau of Revenue Services processes these returns and associated payments for the Department of Labor.
7. It strikes an erroneous reference in the property tax abatement law to a provision that mandates that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and other state officers, must provide the State Tax Assessor with information necessary for the valuing of land in the unorganized territory; the mandate has no relationship to the abatement of Maine property taxes.
8. It repeals definitions of two terms that are no longer used in the sales tax law: "forest land" and "forest products."
9. It clarifies the definition of "manufacturing facility" in the sales tax law.
10. It consolidates and simplifies the list of exclusions from the definition of "sale price" under the sales tax law by repealing references to four separate fees imposed by the State and enacting a general exclusion for any charge or fee imposed by state law.
11. It simplifies the sales tax exemption for coal, oil and wood.
12. It updates language with respect to the sales tax exemption for residential child care facilities so that it is consistent with the terminology employed by the Department of Health and Human Services.
13. It clarifies that the "immediate removal" sales tax exemption with respect to certain vehicles purchased or leased by nonresidents does not apply to any motor vehicle that is being leased on a short-term basis. Under current law, the exemption does not apply to an automobile that is being leased on a short-term basis.
14. It clarifies that the "immediate removal" sales tax exemption does not apply to a camper trailer or truck camper that is being leased on a short-term basis.
15. It clarifies existing language with respect to the partial sales tax exemption for certain watercraft purchased in Maine.
16. It updates language with respect to the sales tax exemption and service provider tax exemption for child care facilities so that it is consistent with the terminology employed by the Department of Health and Human Services.
17. It updates the sales tax exemption and the service provider tax exemption for church-affiliated residential homes to delete obsolete language regarding charters granted by the Legislature.
18. It updates the sales tax exemption for food assistance purchases to include supplemental nutrition assistance program purchases and to delete an obsolete reference to food stamps.
19. It deletes obsolete language regarding the effective date of the sales tax exemption for tree seedlings used in commercial forestry.
20. It amends the sales tax imposed on certain casual sales to clarify that the tax does not apply to a sale made to a trust when the seller is the owner of 50 percent or more of the ownership interests in the trust. This change extends to trusts the same treatment extended to corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies and limited liability partnerships under current law.
21. It clarifies the method of calculating the sales tax on the rental or lease of an automobile for one year or more.
22. It removes gender-specific language.

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23. It makes a minor change to more equitably expand the sales tax refund provision for certain items withdrawn from inventory for use in another jurisdiction.
24. It repeals an obsolete sales tax refund provision that was in effect only for certain purchases made from April 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008.
25. It clarifies that required quarterly insurance premiums tax payments are estimated payments and not payments made based on quarterly returns. An annual return is required to report the tax liability, and to reconcile estimated tax payments made, for the year.
26. It removes the term "personal home care" in the service provider tax law because the term does not describe any service that is not otherwise subject to the tax.
27. It repeals the law governing the sourcing of mobile telecommunications services. Mobile telecommunications services are now sourced for state taxation purposes to the state of primary use, in conformity with the federal Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act, Public Law 106-252.
28. It amends the application of revenues provision in the service provider tax in order to add a reference to specify that the tax is imposed on group residential services for persons with brain injuries.
29. It clarifies that a cigarette distributor's license, like all other licenses and certificates issued by the State Tax Assessor, is not a license within the meaning of that term in the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.
30. It clarifies that a tobacco products distributor's license, like all other licenses and certificates issued by the State Tax Assessor, is not a license within the meaning of that term in the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.
31. It clarifies that the Maine net income of a unitary business is determined in the same way that it is for a taxable corporation that is not a member of a unitary business. Maine net income in both cases is calculated on the basis of federal taxable income apportionable to Maine modified by the addition and subtraction modifications provided by Title 36, section 5200-A. The clarification is a technical change and consistent with long-standing administrative procedures and practice.
32. It updates references in the statutory provision governing the subtraction modification that allows an individual who is an owner of an electing S corporation to recapture the bonus depreciation add-backs made by the business in prior years when it was treated as a C corporation for federal and Maine income tax purposes. This change reflects long-standing statutory and administrative practice.
33. It updates references to the statutory provisions governing the pension deduction in order to reflect recent law changes.
34. It clarifies that returns claiming a refundable seed capital credit must be filed the calendar year following the calendar year during which the investment was made.
35. It requires the State Tax Assessor to obtain national criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for any person who provides or is assigned to provide services to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services under a contract or subcontract that the assessor determines involves access or a substantial possibility of access to the bureau's information technology systems or to confidential taxpayer information. An individual who is assigned to provide services to the bureau pursuant to such a contract must consent to having fingerprints taken for purposes of a background check before the individual may provide such services.
36. It brings applicants for employment with the bureau's Office of Tax Policy within the existing background check process required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 194-B.

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LD 1421 An Act To Establish a Tax-free Savings Program for Individuals with Disabilities

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

POULIOT
LIBBY

This bill establishes the ABLE ME Savings Program, based on the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014, to allow individuals with disabilities who are residents of Maine or their families to establish tax exempt savings accounts to be used for qualified disability expenses. The program is administered by the Treasurer of State in compliance with the federal Act. The Treasurer of State is authorized to contract with financial organizations to serve as depositories or managers of the program and to establish fees to cover administrative costs.

The program is open to an individual who is blind or disabled and whose blindness or disability occurred before the date on which the individual attained 26 years of age and to an individual who filed a disability certification to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States. Qualified disability expenses are defined in federal law and include expenses on behalf of a qualified individual for education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services and legal fees.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

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SUBJECT INDEX

Administration of Tax Laws

Enacted

LD 1411 An Act To Amend the Tax Laws PUBLIC 300

Estate Tax

Not Enacted

LD 501 An Act To Amend the Estate Tax Laws ONTP

Fuel Tax

Enacted

LD 238 An Act To Extend the Period of Time for Persons Who Purchase Special Fuel and Gasoline for Off-highway Use To Apply for the Special Fuel and Gasoline Tax Refunds PUBLIC 9
EMERGENCY

Not Enacted

LD 26 An Act To Simplify the Process for Fuel Tax Rebates ONTP

LD 315 An Act To Provide a Refund of Fuel Taxes to Maine Ambulance Companies ONTP

Income Tax - General

Not Enacted

LD 27 An Act To Exempt Persons 67 Years of Age and Older from the State Income Tax ONTP

LD 95 An Act To Provide Income Tax Relief ONTP

LD 341 An Act To Prevent Tax Haven Abuse Died Between
Houses

LD 409 An Act To Lower the Individual Income Tax Incrementally to Zero Majority (ONTP)
Report

LD 835 An Act To Amend the Individual Income Tax Laws ONTP

LD 1146 An Act To Increase Investment in Maine Died Between
Houses

LD 1269 An Act To Restore Some Progressivity and Fairness to the State Income Tax ONTP

LD 1367 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Eliminate the Income Tax Died Between
Houses

Income Tax Credits, Exemptions, Deductions and Incentives

Enacted

LD 740	An Act To Sustain Maine's Primary Care Professional Workforce	PUBLIC 108
LD 787	An Act To Provide Tax Credits for Adult Day Care and Respite and Hospice Care	PUBLIC 340

Not Enacted

LD 76	An Act To Amend the Property Tax Fairness Credit	Died Between Houses
LD 96	An Act To Increase the State Earned Income Credit	INDEF PP
LD 120	An Act To Provide a Tax Credit to Maine Residents for Turnpike Tolls	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 280	An Act To Exempt Military Pensions and Survivor Benefits from Maine Income Tax	Died On Adjournment
LD 365	An Act To Provide a Tax Reduction for Modifications To Make a Home More Accessible for a Person with a Disability	CARRIED OVER
LD 367	An Act To Protect the Income of Service Workers	ONTP
LD 498	An Act To Restore the Super Credit for Substantially Increased Research and Development	CARRIED OVER
LD 625	An Act To Increase the Tax Exemption for Pensions	ONTP
LD 648	An Act To Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for Maine Residents	ONTP
LD 760	An Act To Increase the Deduction for Pension Income	ONTP
LD 867	An Act To Provide Tax Fairness and To Lower Medical Expenses for Patients under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act	CARRIED OVER
LD 898	An Act To Reduce Student Loan Debt through an Expansion of the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit	CARRIED OVER
LD 922	An Act To Provide an Income Tax Exemption for Pension or Retirement Plans for Veterans Who Are Totally Disabled	ONTP
LD 930	An Act To Attract Young Families to Maine and Keep Young Families in Maine by Expanding the Child Care Tax Credit	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 963	An Act To Strengthen the Benefits of the State Earned Income Tax Credit for Childless Workers	ONTP
LD 1001	An Act To Enact a New Hire Tax Credit and To Create Initiatives To Help Families Move from Assistance to Employment	ONTP
LD 1004	An Act To Provide Incentives To Foster Economic Growth and Build Infrastructure in the State by Encouraging Visual Media Production	CARRIED OVER
LD 1070	An Act To Retain More Retirees in Maine	ONTP

LD 1095	An Act To Enhance the Property Tax Fairness Credit for Maine's Low-income Seniors and Other Low-income Residents	Died Between Houses
LD 1142	An Act Regarding the Taxation of Out-of-state Pensions	CARRIED OVER
LD 1164	An Act To Promote Tourism and Foster Economic Development	ONTP
LD 1287	An Act To Ensure That Tax Expenditures Create High-quality Jobs	INDEF PP
LD 1299	An Act To Allow Educational Access for Families	ONTP
LD 1374	An Act To Expand the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit	Died On Adjournment
LD 1383	An Act To Attract Young People to Maine by Expanding the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program	Died On Adjournment
LD 1421	An Act To Establish a Tax-free Savings Program for Individuals with Disabilities	CARRIED OVER

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

Enacted

LD 444	An Act To Allow a Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Credit for a Vehicle No Longer in Use	PUBLIC 87
LD 514	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Location of Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Collection for Motor Vehicles Owned by Public Utilities	PUBLIC 98

Not Enacted

LD 48	An Act To Reduce Registration Fees and Excise Taxes for For-hire Vehicles with Adaptive Equipment Enabling Access by Persons with Disabilities	Veto Sustained
LD 49	An Act To Exempt from Excise Tax Certain Vehicles Used by Persons with a Disability	CARRIED OVER
LD 94	An Act To Base the Excise Tax Imposed on the Purchase of a Motor Vehicle on the Price Paid	Died Between Houses
LD 614	An Act Regarding the Excise Tax Levied on Used Motor Vehicles	ONTP

Municipal Revenue Sharing

Not Enacted

LD 899	An Act To Ensure a Stable Percentage of Revenue Sharing for Municipalities	ONTP
LD 910	An Act To Fully Fund Municipal Revenue Sharing	ONTP
LD 980	An Act To Restore Revenue Sharing	Died Between Houses
LD 1060	An Act To Strengthen Revenue Sharing	ONTP

Other Taxes

Not Enacted

LD 29	An Act To Establish a Local Option Real Estate Transfer Tax	ONTP
LD 169	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Groundwater Rights	ONTP
LD 502	An Act To Repeal the Service Provider Tax on Private Nonmedical Institutions and To Offset That Revenue Loss	ONTP
LD 644	An Act To Exempt Annuity Considerations from Tax	Died Between Houses
LD 819	An Act Regarding the Taxation of Kombucha	Veto Sustained
LD 973	An Act To Ensure That Nicotine Products Are Taxed Equally	CARRIED OVER
LD 1254	An Act To Implement and Fund an Integrated Beach Management Program	CARRIED OVER

Property Tax - Current Use

Not Enacted

LD 191	An Act To Require the Transfer of a Forest Management and Harvest Plan upon the Transfer of Land in the Tree Growth Tax Program	ONTP
LD 499	An Act To Create Jobs in the Forest Products Industry	ONTP

Property Tax - Exemptions

Enacted

LD 170	An Act To Remove the 180-day Active Duty Requirement for the Property Tax Exemption for Vietnam Veterans	PUBLIC 353
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Not Enacted

LD 565	An Act To Authorize Municipalities To Impose Service Charges on Tax-exempt Property Owned by Certain Nonprofit Organizations	ONTP
LD 1007	Resolve, To Study the Tax Exemption Provided to Nonprofit Entities	ONTP
LD 1148	An Act To Implement a Local Ballot Referendum for Municipalities To Disallow Tax-exempt Status to Large Land Trusts	ONTP

Property Tax - General

Enacted

LD 118	An Act To Authorize Municipalities To Refund Amounts Collected in Excess of Tax Liens	PUBLIC 53 EMERGENCY
LD 500	Resolve, To Create a Working Group To Develop Solutions To Meet the Needs for Municipal Volunteer Personnel	RESOLVE 49

Not Enacted

LD 64	An Act To Reduce the Time within Which a Challenge to a Tax Lien Foreclosure May Be Filed	Veto Sustained
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LD 786	An Act To Help Property Tax Payers	ONTP
LD 965	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Permit the Freezing of Property Taxes on the Homes of Maine Residents Who Are 65 Years of Age or Older	ONTP
LD 1055	An Act To Allow a Municipality To Abate Taxes Assessed on Property That Is Destroyed	ONTP
LD 1159	An Act To Modify the Property Tax Abatement Laws	ONTP

Property Tax - Valuation

Enacted

LD 550	An Act To Improve the Process for Obtaining an Adjustment in State Valuation Due to Sudden and Severe Reduction in Municipal Valuation	PUBLIC 236 EMERGENCY
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Not Enacted

LD 281	Resolve, To Modify the State Valuation of the Towns of Madison, Skowhegan, East Millinocket and Jay To Reflect the Loss of Valuation of Major Taxpayers in Those Towns	CARRIED OVER
LD 282	An Act To Modify the State Valuation of the Town of Madison To Reflect the Loss in Valuation of the Madison Paper Company, To Modify the State Valuation of the Town of Skowhegan To Reflect the Loss in Valuation of the S.D. Warren Company and To Amend the Law Governing School Subsidy Distribution in the Circumstance of Sudden Loss in Municipal Valuation	ONTP
LD 900	An Act To Make Public Certain Tax Information Related to Municipal Valuation	ONTP

Property Tax Relief Programs

Enacted

LD 279	An Act Regarding Payment under the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program	PUBLIC 239
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Not Enacted

LD 183	An Act To Decrease Property Taxes by Increasing the Sales Tax	ONTP
LD 541	An Act To Promote Sustainability in Home Ownership for First-time Home Buyers	ONTP
LD 542	An Act To Reduce Property Taxes	ONTP
LD 575	An Act To Provide Property Tax Relief to Maine's Working Families	ONTP
LD 1126	An Act To Provide Property Tax Deferral for Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities	ONTP

Sales Tax

Not Enacted

LD 503	An Act To Provide Local Sales Tax Increment Disbursements	Majority (ONTP)
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LD 594	An Act To Allow the Creation of a Local Option Sales Tax by Referendum	Report Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 718	An Act To Avoid Loss of Revenue to the State	ONTP
LD 759	An Act To Establish a Sales Tax Holiday	ONTP
LD 932	An Act To Designate a Sales Tax Holiday	ONTP

Sales Tax Exemptions, Exclusions or Refunds

Enacted

LD 590	An Act To Exempt a Fee for a Paper or Plastic Single-use Carry-out Bag from Tax	PUBLIC 150 EMERGENCY
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Not Enacted

LD 11	An Act To Exempt the Sale of the United States Flag from the Sales Tax	Died On Adjournment
LD 13	An Act To Provide an Exemption from Sales Tax and Service Provider Tax to Nonprofit Collaboratives of Libraries	Veto Sustained
LD 30	An Act To Exempt Fuel Used by Commercial Farmers from Sales Tax	ONTP
LD 79	An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Trade-in Credit for Core Parts	ONTP
LD 168	An Act Relating to the Sales Tax Exemption on Depreciable Equipment Used in Commercial Wood Harvesting	ONTP
LD 208	An Act To Provide Funding for Maintaining Cemeteries within the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System	ONTP
LD 226	An Act To Promote Efficiency in Food Pantry Operation	ONTP
LD 278	An Act To Encourage the Use of Fuel-efficient Vehicles	ONTP
LD 290	An Act To Refund the Sales Tax Paid on Fuel Used in Commercial Agricultural Production and Commercial Wood Harvesting	Died On Adjournment
LD 322	An Act To Enhance the Creative Economy by Providing a Sales Tax Exemption to Incorporated Nonprofit Performing Arts Organizations	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 332	An Act To Exempt from Sales Tax Sales to Certain Nonprofit Corporations That Provide Home Rehabilitation and Modification Services to Low-income Individuals	ONTP
LD 432	An Act To Exempt Fuel Purchased for Off-road Use in Commercial Construction and Wood Harvesting Equipment from Sales and Use Tax	ONTP
LD 497	An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Rebate for Certain Organizations Providing Services to Disabled Veterans	ONTP
LD 592	An Act To Extend to Certain Fruit and Vegetable Growers the Sales Tax Exemption for Fuel	Died On Adjournment

LD 689	An Act To Support Maine's Tourism Marketing Promotion Program by Eliminating the Sales Tax Exemption for Casual Rentals for Fewer Than 15 Days a Year	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 836	An Act To Exempt the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars from the Sales Tax	ONTP
LD 859	An Act To Improve Camping Opportunities in Maine	ONTP
LD 1000	An Act To Define Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices for Purposes of the Sales Tax Law	CARRIED OVER

Tax Expenditure Review

Enacted

LD 941	An Act To Improve Tax Expenditure Transparency and Accountability	PUBLIC 344
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Not Enacted

LD 769	An Act To Reduce Tax Expenditures	ONTP
LD 934	An Act To Create Transparency in Maine's Economic Development Spending	ONTP

Tax Increment Financing

Not Enacted

LD 116	An Act To Expand the Use of Tax Increment Financing Revenue	ONTP
LD 519	An Act To Allow Telecommunications Infrastructure Investment in Development Districts for Municipalities and Plantations	ONTP
LD 581	An Act To Clarify the Municipal Development District Law	ONTP
LD 646	An Act To Provide Incentives for Municipal Cooperation and Shared Services	CARRIED OVER
LD 871	An Act To Provide for Cooperation between Municipalities with Tax Increment Financing Districts	ONTP

Tax Reform - Tax and Spending

Not Enacted

LD 1072	An Act To Encourage Maine's Economic Competitiveness	ONTP
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Unorganized Territory

Enacted

LD 967	An Act To Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services To Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2015-16	PUBLIC 197 EMERGENCY
LD 1327	Resolve, Authorizing the State Tax Assessor To Convey the Interest of the State in Certain Real Estate in the Unorganized Territory	RESOLVE 27