MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

126th Legislature First Regular Session



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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

July 2013

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STATE OF MAINE

126TH LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature is October 9, 2013. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

PART GGGGG establishes the Task Force on Adult Learners and requires it to develop a multisector statewide strategic plan to increase postsecondary degree completion rates among such nontraditional students. This Part was originally contained in LD 90 as amended by the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future.

PART HHHHH requires the director of the office within the Department of Education concerned with adult education and family literacy to convene the Working Group on Adult Workforce Readiness to develop a statewide plan to address the work readiness needs of unemployed adults, incumbent workers and employers. This Part was originally contained in LD 90 as amended by the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future.

PART IIIII requires Jobs for Maine's Graduates to provide capacity, curriculum and professional development to assist up to 30 high schools, depending on available funding. This Part was originally contained in LD 90 as amended by the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future.

PART JJJJJ establishes the Maine Incumbent Worker Training Program as a pilot project within the Maine Community College System. This Part was originally contained in LD 90 as amended by the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future.

PART KKKKK expands InternHelpME.com, a statewide internship-matching program established by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. This Part was originally contained in LD 90 as amended by the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future.

PART LLLLL makes additional supplemental appropriations and allocations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

PART MMMMM provides for an additional \$3,000,000 to be transferred from the General Fund for distribution to the milk producers in fiscal year 2012-113.

PART NNNNN reduces funding for the Maine Apprenticeship Program. This Part is a result of House Amendment "P" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-499). The funding reduction offset an inadvertent overfunding as a result of incorporating LD 90 into the Biennial Budget.

PART OOOOO continues until August 1, 2013 all limited period positions throughout State Government that are scheduled to expire during June 2013. This Part is a result of House Amendment "P" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-499).

Public Law 2013, chapter 368 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 26, 2013.

LD 1514 An Act To Reform the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WOODBURY		

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

This bill as emergency legislation proposes to amend the retirement provisions for state employees and teachers participating in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System in the following ways.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

- 1. Cost-of-living adjustments. The bill would increase the cost-of-living adjustment formula for all individuals receiving a pension benefit from the State.
 - A. The base on which the cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, is awarded would be the member's benefit up to the maximum allowable social security benefit at the member's normal retirement age under the federal social security laws. For an individual retiring in 2013, the pension amount eligible for the COLA would increase from \$20,000 to \$30,156.
 - B. The COLA would be calculated using the index used by the United States Social Security Administration but would be capped at 4%.
 - C. At retirement, members would be given a payout option that would provide a full COLA, not subject to the 4% cap and not subject to the reduced benefit base. The full COLA payout option would be self-funded by requiring an actuarially equivalent reduction in the initial benefit payout amount.
 - D. The increased COLA formula for individuals already receiving a retirement pension from the State would be applied prospectively only, beginning on July 1, 2013.
- 2. Deferred retirement. The bill would increase the pension amount for individuals choosing to defer retirement until after the normal retirement age specified in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program. The intent of this provision is to increase the flexibility of the program for employees choosing retirement at any age and to increase the financial benefits from continuing to work.
 - A. The normal retirement age would remain unchanged at 60, 62 or 65 years of age, depending on the year a member became vested in the program.
 - B. Members initiating payments before the normal retirement age would continue to receive a 1/2% reduction in the benefit amount for each month that the member retires early.
 - C. A member retiring after the normal retirement age would receive a 1/2% increase in the benefit amount for each month that the member defers retirement after the normal retirement age, up to 70 years of age. The percentage increase would be in addition to the increase in service credit.
- 3. Service credit. The baseline pension formula for retirement at the normal retirement age would provide a benefit amount of 2% of final average salary per year of service through June 30, 2013, plus 1.5% of final average salary per year of service after June 30, 2013.
- 4. Defined contribution plan. A state employee or teacher would automatically be enrolled in an opt-out defined contribution plan with a default employee contribution rate of 4% of salary. The State or the participating local school district would match 25% of the employee's or teacher's contribution, up to a maximum of 2% of the employee's or teacher's salary.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

LD 1555 An Act To Strengthen Maine's Hospitals and To Provide for a New Spirits Contract

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
FLOOD	OTP-AM	S-269

PUBLIC 269 EMERGENCY