

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

August 2017

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\*Committee member for a portion of the session

# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 128<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

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

*CARRIED OVER*..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT*..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

## *Joint Standing Committee on Taxation*

This amendment removes the provisions of the bill that eliminate the requirement that interest accrues on deferred property taxes and provides that interest accrues on deferred property taxes at the prime rate published in the Wall Street Journal minus one percentage point. The amendment adds a maximum asset standard for eligibility of property owners and provides that property may not be subject to deferral under both the state deferral program and a municipal deferral program. The amendment also provides an appropriation to cover the cost of state administration of the program and the initial cost of making payments to municipalities for deferred taxes.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to the next special or regular session of the 128th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, S.P. 601.

**LD 1212      An Act To Amend the Definition of "Eligible Business Equipment" for the Purposes of the Business Equipment Tax Exemption Program      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ R SPEAR J	OTP-AM	S-180

This bill changes the statutory location of the tax exemption for personal property occupied or used solely for its own purposes by an incorporated benevolent and charitable organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 of the Code and the primary purpose of which is the operation of a hospital licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services, a health maintenance organization or a blood bank. This bill moves the exemption from the statutes regarding general exemption of real and personal property to the statutes governing exemption of "eligible business equipment" under the business equipment tax exemption, or "BETE," program. Municipalities are reimbursed for a portion of the property tax loss for exemptions under the BETE program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-180)**

This amendment changes the application date in the bill to tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2018.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to the next special or regular session of the 128th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, S.P. 601.

**LD 1227      An Act To Restore to Five Percent the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Distribution and Create a Matching Fund for Local Road and Bridge Construction, Maintenance and Reconstruction      ONTP**

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

This bill restores state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% of the income tax, sales tax and service provider tax base and provides that 3/5ths of the revenue be deposited in a newly created Local Infrastructure Fund. The fund is administered by the Department of Transportation and must be used to provide matching grants to a municipality that undertakes a project in that municipality to maintain, improve or construct roads or bridges. The formula for determining the limit of a grant to a municipality is the same as the formula used to determine the distribution to a municipality from the Local Government Fund. The effect of this is to allow a municipality to receive 5% in revenue sharing, depending on the size of the infrastructure project undertaken by that municipality.

See also LDs 74, 133, 492 and 875.