

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

August 2025

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Part D requires the State Controller to transfer amounts exceeding \$100,000 from the unallocated balance in the Highway Fund after all commitments to the Highway and Bridge Capital, Highway Light Capital, Maintenance and Operations and multimodal transportation programs within the Department of Transportation for capital needs.

Part E authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to transfer Highway Fund Personal Services balances available at the end of fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27 to the Department of Transportation Highway and Bridge Capital, Highway Light Capital, Maintenance and Operations and multimodal transportation programs for capital or all other needs. The funds may be allocated by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and the approval of the Governor.

Part F amends the authority granted by Public Law 2023, chapter 189 to issue a TransCap revenue bond from the TransCap Trust Fund at the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. It increases the size of the bond authorized from \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000 and allows a longer time in which to issue the bonds. These bond proceeds are used for capital transportation infrastructure projects. It also simplifies, increases and diversifies the revenue streams transferred to the TransCap Trust Fund for revenue bond debt service and underwriting requirements. It continues the existing portion of fuel taxes and adds a portion of the sales tax related to automobiles transferred to the Highway Fund as revenue streams so that bond proceeds can be used for all highway, bridge and multimodal transportation capital projects. It also eliminates the transfer of the portion of registration fees that went to the TransCap Trust Fund.

Part G provides that the unexpended Highway Fund account balances for purchasing, operating, maintaining, improving, repairing, constructing and managing the assets of multimodal forms of transportation do not lapse.

Part H reduces Capital Expenditures funding related to an initiative included in Part A.

Public Law 2025, chapter 9 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 21, 2025.

LD 275 An Act to Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 3 does the following.

Part A makes appropriations and allocations of funds for fiscal year 2024-25.

Part B directs that funds are carried forward into fiscal year 2025-26 for the Department of the Secretary of State, which extends the time within which previously authorized funds may be used in accommodation of the plate manufacturing billing process.

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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Part C directs the State Controller to carry forward up to \$2,500,000 in unexpended balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, after all financial commitments for obligations and budgetary adjustments have been made, at the end of fiscal year 2024-25 to the next fiscal year to the All Other line category in the Department of Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program. These funds must be used to continue the modernization of systems and services at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Public Law 2025, chapter 3 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 21, 2025.

LD 280 An Act to Establish Lifetime Ferry Passes for Retired Maine State Ferry Service Employees

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 228 specifies that a former state employee who was employed for at least 15 years with the Maine State Ferry Service and who is a year-round resident of an island served by the Maine State Ferry Service is eligible for the lifetime ferry pass. It specifies a person may receive a waiver from any reservation fees only if the lifetime ferry pass is presented when making the reservation. A “lifetime ferry pass” is defined as a nontransferable pass that provides, on a ferry operated by the Maine State Ferry Service, unlimited walk-on passages for a passenger to and from the island on which the retiree resides and one round-trip passage per month for a passenger and that passenger’s vehicle during peak season as determined by rules adopted by the Department of Transportation and two round-trip passages per month during off-peak season as determined by rules adopted by the department.

LD 289 Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Bingham the Barry A. DeLong Bridge

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 27 directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2027, which carries Route 201 over Austin Stream in the Town of Bingham, the Barry A. DeLong Bridge.

LD 312 An Act Regarding the Rates of Speed at Which School Buses Travel

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 199 removes language limiting a school bus to a speed of 45 miles per hour, including when transporting pupils.