

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
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

August 2025

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LD 1575 An Act to Allow a Legislator to Choose to Be Paid on an Annual Basis

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 482 changes the law governing legislative pay. Previously, a Legislator received the salary for a biennium divided into equal payments spread out over the legislative session, beginning at the start of the session and ending on the date of statutory adjournment for that session with the balance paid at the end of each session. Public Law 2025, chapter 482 allows a Legislator to choose to be paid the salary for each year of the biennium to which that Legislator is entitled in approximately equal payments over that corresponding year of the biennium.

LD 1635 An Act to Streamline Municipal Referenda Recount Initiation

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 268 requires that if a municipal referendum passes or fails by less than 1% of all the votes cast in the referendum, including any blank ballots cast, a recount may be conducted upon the majority vote of the municipal officers.

LD 1968 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Legislative Reimbursement

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 490 changes the provisions of law governing legislative compensation. The law removes specific dollar amounts that Legislators may be reimbursed for meal allowances, travel-related expenses of a meal allowance and housing allowances and instead provides that the rate of these allowances must be set by the Legislative Council at the beginning of the first regular or second regular session of a legislative biennium. The law specifies that each member of the Senate and House of Representatives is entitled to a meal allowance of \$50 or a higher amount set by the Legislative Council and a housing allowance of \$70 or a higher amount set by the Legislative Council. These changes apply to allowances for days the Legislature is in session and for days the Legislature is not in session. The law also clarifies that to set the amount of the allowances, at least six members of the Legislative Council must vote in favor of the allowance at the beginning of the first regular session in a legislative biennium. The amount of an allowance set by the Legislative Council may not exceed the regular federal per diem rate for lodging, meals and incidental expenses applicable to that allowance.

The law clarifies that for the purposes of allowances for mileage on days that the Legislature is not in session, daily mileage is calculated for travel both to and from the Legislator's place of abode, determined by the most reasonable direct route.

The law amends the provision governing the salary owed to a person who replaces a member of the Legislature who has died or otherwise vacated the office. The law provides that the successor is entitled to a salary from the date the successor is seated equal to the salary that would have been