

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS
LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILLS AND
SUMMARIES OF ENACTED LAWS



Disposition of All Bills and Summaries of All Laws Enacted or
Finally Passed During the First Regular and First Special Session
of the 131st Maine Legislature

First Regular Session convened Wednesday, December 7, 2022
First Regular Session adjourned sine die Thursday, March 30, 2023
First Special Session convened Wednesday April 5, 2023
First Special Session adjourned sine die Wednesday, July 26, 2023

	First Regular	First Special
Senate Legislative Days	21	36
House Legislative Days	21	36
Number of Bills	2019	

THE MAINE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE MEMBERS

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SEN. HAROLD "TREY" STEWART, III
SEN. LISA KEIM

OCTOBER 2023

ANALYST NOTES

This section includes additional information relating to certain LDs as noted in a committee digest. This is information staff found useful and may provide useful information to users of this Digest; please note that most LDs do not have a note and lack of a note should not be interpreted as having any significance.

LD 2 An Act to Address Chronic Homelessness by Creating the Housing First Fund

Although this bill was not enacted, the majority amendment to LD 2 as reported out by the Joint Select Committee was incorporated into LD 258, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025, which became Public Law 2023, chapter 412.

The committee amendment to LD 2 established the Housing First Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the delivery of stabilization and support services to residents of properties established or developed to provide permanent housing to persons who have been experiencing chronic homelessness and to fund technical assistance, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, for the development of housing consistent with the program. The amendment required the department to ensure that funding supplements existing and future services provided under associated programs such as the MaineCare program and the housing outreach and member engagement provider program. The program is funded from the real estate transfer tax by depositing half of the funds that would otherwise be deposited into the General Fund into the Housing First Fund created by the amendment. The amendment authorized 2 positions within the Department of Health and Human Services under the Housing First Fund. The amendment directed the Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine State Housing Authority to jointly adopt rules to administer the program and requires them to report annually to the joint standing committee or joint select committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the program. The amendment also directed the Department of Health and Human Services to apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for state plan amendments to align certain MaineCare rules with the Housing First Program.

LD 7 An Act to Update References to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 Contained in the Maine Revised Statutes

This bill, submitted by Maine Revenue Services, proposed to update the date of tax conformity with the United States Internal Revenue Code contained in the Maine Revised Statutes. Although the bill was not enacted, its provisions were incorporated in the biennial budget bill, enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 412. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 258, Part ZZZ.

LD 18 An Act to Provide Ongoing Funding for up to 2 Years of Community College for Certain Maine Students

Although this bill was not enacted, funding and eligibility and conditions for the Maine Community College System 2-year free community college tuition program was

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incorporated into Public Law 2023, chapter 412, the budget bill enacted in the First Special Session. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 258, Part QQQ.

LD 41 An Act to Increase the Hourly Reimbursement Rate of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services Lawyers to \$150 per Hour

Although this bill was not enacted, the supplemental budget bill enacted in the First Regular Session directed the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS) to adopt major substantive rules on an emergency basis increasing the reimbursement rate for assigned counsel to up to \$150 per hour effective March 1, 2023. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 206, Part Q. Additional funding to support the increased reimbursement rate was included in the biennial budget bill enacted in the First Regular Session. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 424, §A-38 and Part T.

LD 112 An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance

Though this bill was not enacted, a majority of the substance of the bill was incorporated into Public Law 2023, chapter 412, the budget bill enacted in the First Special Session. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 258, Part OOOOO.

LD 86 An Act to Restore the Former State of Maine Flag

This bill was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, the final disposition of this bill will be determined during the next legislative session.

LD 165 An Act to Increase the Governor's Salary

This bill was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, the final disposition of this bill will be determined during the next legislative session.

LD 197 An Act to Address Employee Retention at the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory and the Computer Crimes Unit in the Department of Public Safety

Although this bill was not enacted, the substance of the bill was incorporated into Public Law 2023, chapter 412, the budget bill enacted in the First Special Session. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 258, Part IIII.