

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

June 2012

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OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW
5 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1635

STATE OF MAINE

125TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the Second Regular Session of the 125th 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.

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature is Thursday, August 30, 2012. 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

vital to the expansion of business interests by the business and economic development sector and essential to public safety. It requires that the Department of Transportation consult with the business and economic development sector to determine projects of highest priority to the business and economic development sector and establish a stakeholder group, if the bond passes, consisting of municipal officials, highway safety officials and members of the general public to develop a list of highway and bridge projects by level of priority relating to the safety of the general public.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-568)

This amendment reduces the total authorization for the issuance of bonds for transportation infrastructure from \$62,000,000 to \$51,500,000 and specifies amounts authorized for highways and bridges, the Urban-Rural Initiative Program, the LifeFlight Foundation, the port operation at Mack Point, transit buses, the Industrial Rail Access Program, the port at Eastport and aviation facilities.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-590)

This amendment removes the \$5,000,000 funding for the Urban-Rural Initiative Program and instead increases by \$5,000,000 the funds for repair and reconstruction of highways and bridges.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 697 provides for a bond issue, in the amount of \$51,500,000, for improvements to highways and bridges, airports and port facilities, rail access, transit buses and the Lifeflight Foundation.

LD 919 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Weatherize and Upgrade the Energy Efficiency of Maine Homes and Businesses and To Provide for a Trained Workforce for Maine's Energy Future MAJORITY (ONTP) REPORT

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HINCK	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$55,000,000, will be used to support weatherization and other energy efficiency improvements for Maine homes, businesses and public buildings to save money, reduce dependence on increasingly scarce heating fuels, support health and comfort and protect the environment. Funds are also provided to expand the workforce for weatherization and energy efficiency services and other parts of a new green economy.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-960)

This is the minority report of the committee. This amendment removes all the bonding proposed in the bill except the bonding that provides \$1,000,000, reduced from the \$10,000,000 proposed in the bill, for below-market loans to homeowners and rental property and small business owners for energy audits and weatherization or other major energy efficiency projects.

LD 948 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create Jobs through Energy Efficiency ONTP

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

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, will be for grants to make buildings throughout the State more energy efficient. Grant recipients must commit to using the money saved through increased energy efficiency to hire workers or for other workforce development.

LD 979 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create an Animal ONTP
and Plant Diagnostic Facility at the University of Maine

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDGECOMB SHERMAN	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$7,200,000, will be used to build an animal and plant diagnostic laboratory to enable animal and plant population health monitoring for exotic and zoonotic diseases as well as the study of animal and plant pathogens and containment of arthropods in a highly secure setting.

LD 874, enacted as Public Law 2011, chapter 700, contains a similar bond proposal.

LD 990 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of ONTP
\$1,000,000 for Road and Bridge Construction

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$1,000,000, will be used to repair the road and bridge within the Town of Woodstock.

LD 1187 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Revitalize Maine's ONTP
Downtowns through Innovative Business Development and the Creative
Economy

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used as seed money to capitalize the Downtown Revitalization Fund, a revolving loan and grant fund to encourage business development in downtown areas, targeting innovative businesses, light manufacturing, trades and small businesses and space for artists and artisans. The Downtown Revitalization Fund is administered by a board consisting of public and private members and issues loans that must be matched by \$1 from the recipient for every \$2 received from the fund and issues grants.