

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2011

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STATE OF MAINE
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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 First 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.

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 125th Legislature is September 28, 2011. 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

LD 1386 **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund the Challenger Learning Center of Maine** **Carried Over**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEVENS FARNHAM		

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$500,000, will be used by the Challenger Learning Center of Maine to improve educational achievement in mathematics and to inspire interest in science and technology careers.

This bill was carried over to any special and/or regular session of the 125th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1190.

LD 1395 **An Act To Authorize a Highway Fund Bond Issue To Improve Maine's Roads and Bridges** **Carried Over**

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to provide funds to match federal funds for highway and bridge capital projects.

This bill was carried over to any special and/or regular session of the 125th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1190.

LD 1524 **An Act To Amend the Laws Relating to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System** **PUBLIC 449**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROSEN R	OTP	

This bill:

1. Further expands the investment-related activity of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that is considered confidential;
2. Makes personnel records of retirement system staff confidential in a manner consistent with how similar records of other groups of public employees are treated;
3. Provides further clarification as to the conditions of membership for optional members, consistent with federal law;
4. Corrects the automatic refund provision of accumulated contributions to be consistent with federal law;

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

5. Makes the effectiveness of a beneficiary designation consistent as between the defined benefit and group life insurance programs;
6. Clarifies how employees make coverage elections under the group life insurance program; and
7. Clarifies how coverage under the group life insurance program is treated during an authorized leave of absence.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011 chapter 449 accomplishes the following:

1. It further expands the investment-related activity of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that is considered confidential;
2. It makes personnel records of retirement system staff confidential in a manner consistent with how similar records of other groups of public employees are treated;
3. It provides further clarification as to the conditions of membership for optional members, consistent with federal law;
4. It corrects the automatic refund provision of accumulated contributions to be consistent with federal law;
5. It makes the effectiveness of a beneficiary designation consistent as between the defined benefit and group life insurance programs;
6. It clarifies how employees make coverage elections under the group life insurance program; and
7. It clarifies how coverage under the group life insurance program is treated during an authorized leave of absence.