

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

July 2011

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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 125<sup>th</sup> 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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 Transportation*

**LD 1512 An Act To Ensure That the State Is in Compliance with Certain Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations**

**PUBLIC 164**

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

This bill requires a state police officer or a motor carrier inspector who has satisfactorily completed a prescribed course of instruction established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police to investigate an alleged violation of federal safety regulations.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 164 authorizes a state police officer or a motor carrier inspector who has satisfactorily completed a prescribed course of instruction established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police to investigate an alleged violation of federal safety regulations.

**LD 1529 An Act Honoring Gold Star Families through Special Registration Plates**

**PUBLIC 246  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MOULTON COLLINS	OTP-AM	H-355

This bill allows the Secretary of State to issue special gold star family registration plates for vehicles and motorcycles to certain family members eligible to receive gold star lapel buttons under 10 United States Code, Section 1126 (2010).

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-355)**

This amendment does the following.

1. It adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.
2. It strikes the provision that proposes to allow the Secretary of State to issue gold star family registration plates for motorcycles.
3. It strikes the requirement that the Secretary of State issue gold star family registration plates that are also vanity plates.
4. It specifies that an applicant may be issued gold star family registration plates for no more than one vehicle.
5. It provides that a single gold star family registration plate, which may not be attached to a motor vehicle and is issued for recognition purposes only, is provided at no fee.
6. It changes the date by which the Secretary of State must begin issuing gold star family registration plates from January 1, 2012 to October 1, 2011.
7. It provides that any donations received for gold star family registration plates be deposited into the Specialty

**Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

License Plate Fund.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 246 allows the Secretary of State to issue special gold star family registration plates for vehicles to a person who is eligible to receive a gold star lapel button under 10 United States Code, Section 1126 (2010) and a grandparent of a member of the United States Armed Forces, if that member dies after March 28, 1973 as a result of an international terrorist attack or military operations.

The law specifies that an applicant may be issued gold star family registration plates for no more than one vehicle.

It provides that a single gold star family registration plate, which may not be attached to a motor vehicle and is issued for recognition purposes only, is provided at no fee.

Public Law 2011, chapter 246 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 7, 2011.

**LD 1538 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Turnpike Authority and To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee in the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability Report Concerning the Maine Turnpike Authority**

**PUBLIC 302  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CEBRA COLLINS	OTP-AM	H-354 S-271 COLLINS

This bill implements some of the recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee in response to the January 2011 report of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability regarding the Maine Turnpike Authority.

This bill does the following.

1. It requires the authority annually to transfer to the Department of Transportation an amount equal to 5% of the authority's operating revenues, less any funds spent by the authority on department projects bonds issued for the benefit of the department and on transportation projects funded jointly with the department. The transferred funds may be spent by department only on projects that are within 25 miles of an interchange or other connecting point between the turnpike and the state highway system.
2. It changes the membership of the Maine Turnpike Authority to a board of directors and requires that 4 of the members be from a municipality through which the turnpike passes in each of the counties of York, Cumberland, Androscoggin and Kennebec. It also specifies that each 7-year term expires on March 31st of the 7th year. Members who are currently on the board retain their membership until the expiration of their terms. It provides that a member may be removed for gross misconduct, which is financial malfeasance, a deliberate or reckless failure to attend to duties required for governance of the authority or unexcused absences from 4 or more meetings of the board in a 12-month period. It provides for staggered terms of the members so that in any given year, at most only one member's term will expire.
3. It requires the authority to maintain a system for ongoing internal auditing of the authority's books and