

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
125<sup>TH</sup> 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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# STATE OF MAINE

125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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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 Second 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.

<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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted private &amp; 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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***

**LD 1657      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Health Insurance for Certain State Employees      ONTP**

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

Pursuant to changes made by Public Law 2011, chapter 380, a state employee who retires after January 1, 2012, but who has not yet reached the applicable normal retirement age is required to pay 100% of individual health care insurance premiums until that person reaches the normal retirement age. This bill exempts from that requirement a state employee who is appointed by the Governor, a department head or a body in the executive branch or the Legislature as long as that appointee has at least 25 years of creditable service but has not yet reached normal retirement age. This exemption is retroactive to January 1, 2012.

**LD 1662      An Act To Provide for an Advisory Referendum on the Approval of Tax-exempt Student Loan Revenue Bonds      ONTP**

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

Federal law requires that private activity bonds, which are tax-exempt bonds issued by public entities to provide low-cost financing for private projects that serve a public purpose, be approved by the highest elected official of the jurisdiction in which the proceeds of the bonds will be used. The Maine Educational Loan Authority issues private activity bonds to fund supplemental student loans for Maine students and families and services its debts with the revenue streams associated with student loan repayment. This bill directs the Secretary of State to hold an advisory referendum at a statewide election to determine whether the voters of the State favor the Governor's approval of the Maine Educational Loan Authority's issuance of no more than \$50,000,000 of tax-exempt student loan revenue bonds over the next 3 years, to be repaid by the loan recipients.

**LD 1667      An Act To Clarify Authorization for a Court Facilities Bond      PUBLIC 671**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HASTINGS	OTP-AM	S-417

This bill makes a technical correction to language contained in Public Law 2009, chapter 213 that authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue securities for the costs associated with court facilities.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-417)**

This amendment allows any remaining funds from authorized securities issued for paying the costs associated with the construction of a new courthouse in Augusta, the renovation of a courthouse in Dover-Foxcroft and the planning and construction of court facilities upgrades in Machias to be used for planning for additional court facilities.

*Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 671 makes a technical correction to language contained in Public Law 2009, chapter 213 that authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue securities for the costs associated with court facilities and allows any remaining funds from authorized securities issued for paying the costs associated with the construction of a new courthouse in Augusta, the renovation of a courthouse in Dover-Foxcroft and the planning and construction of court facilities upgrades in Machias to be used for planning for additional court facilities.

**LD 1713      An Act To Restore Supplemental Health Insurance Coverage for Disabled Children of State Retirees      ONTP**

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

Prior to 2011, the State covered the cost of health insurance coverage for retirees' disabled dependents 19 years of age and older. This bill restores that practice.

**LD 1746      An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013      PUBLIC 657**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROSEN R	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-974 FLOOD S-572 S-587 ROSEN R S-589 ROSEN R

This bill is the Governor's proposal to address a projected shortfall in the MaineCare program in the 2012-2013 biennium.

Some provisions in this proposal are incorporated into LD 1816, which was enacted as Public Law 2011, chapter 477, to address the shortfall in the Maine Care program in fiscal year 2011-12.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-572)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee in response to the Governor's proposed bill.

**Senate Amendment "J" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-589)**

This amendment makes technical changes to Committee Amendment "A". The amendment:

1. Corrects a program number in Part A;