

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2013

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STATE OF MAINE

126TH LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126th 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 126th Legislature is October 9, 2013. 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 138 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds That Have Been Ratified by the Citizens of the State CARRIED OVER

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to amend the laws governing the issuance of General Fund bonds that have been ratified at referendum by the citizens of the State. Under this bill, once the issuance of bonds is ratified at referendum, the bonds must be issued by the Treasurer of State unless the Treasurer of State determines, based on information available to the Treasurer of State, that:

1. The issuance of the bonds will adversely affect the credit rating of the State;
2. A delay in the issuance of the bonds will likely result in a more financially advantageous interest rate; or
3. Alternative funding sources are available to implement, within a comparable time frame, the projects and the purposes for which the bonds were authorized and ratified, and use of the alternative funding sources is fiscally preferable.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

LD 186 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Disability Retirement Determinations by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System CARRIED OVER

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

Under current law, when making determinations on applications for disability retirement, the Maine Public Employees Retirement System is required to consider the applicant's disability application, medical records and the analysis of a medical board that is designated by, and advisory to, the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. This bill provides instead that the retirement system may consider, but is not required to consider, the medical board's analysis.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

LD 221 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Funds for a Public-private Partnership for a New Science Facility at the Maine Maritime Academy CARRIED OVER

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

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$4,500,000, will be used for a public-private partnership for a building project for a new science facility at the Maine Maritime Academy to be matched by other funds.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

LD 228 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Energy Costs by Weatherizing and Upgrading the Energy Efficiency of Maine Homes and Businesses and To Create Jobs by Providing for a Trained Workforce for Maine's Energy Future CARRIED OVER

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

The purpose of this bill is to provide funds, through a General Fund bond issue, to reduce energy costs and to create jobs. 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.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

LD 232 An Act To Increase the Base for the Cost-of-living Increase for Retired State Employees and Teachers CARRIED OVER

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

This bill increases the base for the calculation of cost-of-living increases for retired teachers and state employees under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System from \$20,000 to \$30,000 beginning in 2014 and makes a grammatical correction.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

LD 245 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Maintenance of State Armories CARRIED OVER

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used to provide funds to repair and maintain armory property and facilities to remain in compliance with state and federal requirements.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as