

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
126<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**

May 2014

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND**  
**ENACTED LAWS**

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 Second Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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***

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill amends the law on the Fund for a Healthy Maine to require that funding for children's health care not be reduced in order to address a budget deficit.

**LD 182      An Act To Support the Maine Lobster Industry      ONTP**

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill makes a General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 2013-14 to the Lobster Promotion Council to increase its work to promote and market Maine lobsters in state, regional, national and international markets.

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

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

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.

**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      ONTP**

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill authorizes a General Fund bond issue to reduce energy costs and to create jobs. The funds provided by this

*Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

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.

**LD 230      An Act To Establish the Commission on Health Care Cost and Quality      ONTP**

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. It was placed on the Special Appropriations Table, removed from the table, committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and carried over to a Special or Regular Session.

This bill establishes the Commission on Health Care Cost and Quality to monitor the accessibility, cost and quality of health care in the State. The bill also reestablishes the State Health Plan and requires the commission to develop the plan on a biennial basis.

**LD 232      An Act To Increase the Base for the Cost-of-living Increase for Retired State Employees and Teachers      PUBLIC 578 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHERMAN	OTP-AM	S-375

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

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.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-375)**

This amendment replaces the bill and increases the base for the calculation of the one-time, noncumulative cost-of-living adjustment payable in 2014 for retired teachers and state employees under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System from \$20,000 to \$30,000. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 578 increases from \$20,000 to \$30,000 the base for the calculation of the one-time, noncumulative cost-of-living adjustment payable in 2014 for retired teachers and state employees under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Public Law 2013, chapter 578 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 29, 2014.