

# 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***

This bill establishes the Aging in Place Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development to assist low-income seniors with aging in place, including assisting low-income seniors to remain in their homes. It also establishes the Aging in Place Fund and appropriates money to the fund. The department is required to disburse money from the fund to a statewide network that provides weatherization and home repair services, including but not limited to repairs to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards, to replace substandard fixtures and hardware and to reduce ongoing maintenance and heating costs for low-income residents.

**LD 1385 An Act To Amend the Reporting Requirements of the Workers' Compensation Management Fund**

**PUBLIC 447**

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

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

Current law requires the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to provide to the State Budget Officer and departments and agencies notice of quarterly premium payments due to the Workers' Compensation Management Fund so that the charges may be incorporated into the normal budgetary process. This bill instead requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Employee Health and Benefits to inform the State Budget Officer of the premium charges for the fiscal year, and directs the State Budget Officer to advise any affected department or agency so those charges may be incorporated into the normal budgetary process. This bill also removes transitional language that was applicable in the 114th Legislature.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 447 requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Employee Health and Benefits to inform the State Budget Officer of the health insurance premium charges for the fiscal year, and directs the State Budget Officer to advise any affected department or agency so those charges may be incorporated into the normal budgetary process. This law also removes transitional language that was applicable in the 114th Legislature.

**LD 1395 An Act Regarding the Cost-of-living Adjustment for Certain State Retirees When the Cost of Living Declines**

**ONTP**

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

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

This bill provides that the public employee pension adjustment for changes in the Consumer Price Index does not include downward adjustments to achieve cost-neutrality attributable to a decrease in the Consumer Price Index for years prior to a retiree's retirement.

**LD 1418 An Act To Authorize a Matching General Fund Bond Issue for Improvements to the Seven Community College Campuses**

**ONTP**

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

***Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs***

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

This bill authorizes a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$10,000,000 to be used to provide matching funds for the seven Maine community colleges in order to improve facilities, enhance education grant-issuing foundations and expand academic bridge programs after the Maine community colleges raise \$2,500,000 in private or in-kind donations.

**LD 1424      An Act To Increase Mileage Reimbursement and Compensation for Jurors      ONTP**

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. 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 changes the mileage rate paid to jurors and witnesses from 15¢ per mile and 22¢ per mile, respectively, to the rate paid by the State for travel by employees of the State for the business of the State, which is currently 44¢ per mile. This bill also increases the daily rate paid to jurors and witnesses from \$10 to \$20.

**LD 1445      An Act To Facilitate Children's Testimony      ONTP**

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

In the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, this bill was referred to and reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. 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 allows a court, by motion from the State, to allow the testimony of a child who is ten years of age or younger and the alleged victim of a sexual assault or sexual exploitation outside of the presence of the defendant if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the protection of the judicial process or the well-being of the child outweighs the constitutional rights of the defendant to confront the defendant's accuser. This bill requires that testimony by a child victim outside the presence of the defendant must be televised by live, two-way closed-circuit television with adequate provisions, including that the court, jury and defendant can hear and observe the child. This bill does not allow testimony of a child outside of the presence of the defendant if the defendant is an attorney pro se or if a positive identification of the defendant by the child is required.

**LD 1455      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Ensure Clean Water and Safe Communities      PUBLIC 589**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODALL BERRY	OTP-AM	S-558