

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

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

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

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.

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

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, will be used to provide matching funds for the 7 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.

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 1440 An Act To Amend the Retirement Laws Pertaining to Participating Local Districts PUBLIC 391

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROTUNDO	OTP-AM	H-568

This bill amends specific defined benefit plan provisions that apply to members of the Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System as a result of recommendations of the Participating Local District Advisory Committee, a committee established by statute that represents both the labor and management interests of participating local districts.

1. Allows the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to establish by rule the rate at which plan members contribute.
2. Reduces the cost-of-living adjustment cap from 4% to 3%.
3. Increases from 6 to 12 months the length of time that a retiree must be retired in order to receive a cost-of-living increase.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

- 4. Raises the normal retirement age from 60 to 65 years of age for new hires.
- 5. Increases the early retirement reduction from 2 1/4% to 6% for new hires.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-568)

This amendment directs the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to review the statutory provisions governing the Participating Local District Retirement Program and the Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs no later than January 15, 2014. This amendment also provides that the committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature upon receipt and review of the report.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 391 amends specific defined benefit plan provisions that apply to members of the Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System as a result of recommendations of the Participating Local District Advisory Committee, a committee established by statute that represents both the labor and management interests of participating local districts.

- 1. It allows the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to establish by rule the rate at which plan members contribute.
- 2. It reduces the cost-of-living adjustment cap from 4% to 3%.
- 3. It increases from 6 to 12 months the length of time that a retiree must be retired in order to receive a cost-of-living increase.
- 4. It raises the normal retirement age from 60 to 65 years of age for new hires.
- 5. It increases the early retirement reduction from 2 1/4% to 6% for new hires.

In addition, the law directs the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to review the statutory provisions governing the Participating Local District Retirement Program and the Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs no later than January 15, 2014.

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

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill authorizes a bond issue in the amount of \$50,000,000 in order to make cost-effective investments in natural and built infrastructure to reduce threats to the State's water resources and provide a host of benefits for communities across Maine, including ensuring an abundant and high-quality drinking water supply, allowing communities to more effectively prepare for storms and flood events, conserving habitat for recreational fisheries, waterfowl and aquatic and wildlife species and strengthening the State's long-term economic base and competitive advantage. The bill establishes the Water Resources Commission and the Fund To Ensure Clean Water and Safe Communities. The commission is charged with assessing the State's water resource infrastructure needs and with allocating funds for resource conservation and development projects.

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