

# 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*

**LD 1756    An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Biomedical Research in Maine**

**PUBLIC 574**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EVES BURNS	OTP-AM	H-850

This bill authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$30,000,000, to be matched by \$31,000,000 in other funds, to:

1. Establish a Maine center for marine economy coordinated and managed by the University of New England in partnership with public sector and private sector marine research centers and marine industries throughout the State, including but not limited to the Southern Maine Community College; the University of Maine at Machias, Downeast Institute of Applied Marine Research and Education; and the Cobscook Community Learning Center, to facilitate the growth of business and commercial enterprises that create jobs in Maine's marine economy and related industries and interests through capital investments in a shared marine research and resource vessel; infrastructure and equipment to support the vessel and its statewide operations; expanded facilities statewide to support collaboration and commercialization; and infrastructure and equipment for experimental sea- and land-based sustainable aquaculture sites located around the State; and
2. Establish at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor a center for biometric analysis using state-of-the-art technologies to expand the State's research capabilities in the area of medical analytics, make the State a global resource for precision medicine, improve the State's capacity to attract and retain young professionals and facilitate additional grant funding, private sector investment, job growth and economic activity in the State.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-850)**

This amendment replaces the bill. It authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000, to be awarded through a competitive process and to be matched by \$11,000,000 in private and other funds, to expand the State's research capabilities in the areas of mammalian genetics and murine biometric analytics, make the State a global resource for precision medicine, improve the State's capacity to attract and retain young professionals and bring additional grant funding, private sector investment, job growth and economic activity to the State.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 574 authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000, to be awarded through a competitive process and to be matched by \$11,000,000 in private and other funds, to expand the State's research capabilities in the areas of mammalian genetics and murine biometric analytics; make the State a global resource for precision medicine; improve the State's capacity to attract and retain young professionals; and bring additional grant funding, private sector investment, job growth and economic activity to the State.

The bond issue is subject to voter approval at a statewide election to be held in November 2014.

**LD 1762    An Act Related to the Report of the Tax Expenditure Review Task Force**

**PUBLIC 451**

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

This bill provides funding to avoid a provision in Part S of the biennial budget bill, Public Law 2013, chapter 368, that reduced the transfers to municipal revenue sharing by \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 if legislation is not

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

enacted by July 1, 2014 pursuant to Part S that generates an increase of \$40,000,000 in budgeted General Fund revenue. This bill also:

1. Repeals the fiscal year 2014-15 year-end transfers required under Public Law 2013, chapter 386, Part S of \$40,000,000 from the Local Government Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund;
2. Requires a transfer at the end of fiscal year 2013-14 from the General Fund unappropriated surplus of \$21,000,000 to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund and the transfer of the same amount by the end of fiscal year 2014-15 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund; and
3. Transfers \$4,000,000 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and \$21,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund by the end of fiscal year 2014-15. The State Controller is authorized to make post-closing entries and adjustments to effect this change.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 451 provides funding to avoid a provision in Part S of the biennial budget bill, Public Law 2013, chapter 368, that reduced the transfers to municipal revenue sharing by \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 if legislation is not enacted by July 1, 2014 pursuant to Part S that generates an increase of \$40,000,000 in budgeted General Fund revenue; repeals the fiscal year 2014-15 year-end transfers required under Public Law 2013, chapter 386, Part S of \$40,000,000 from the Local Government Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund; requires a transfer at the end of fiscal year 2013-14 from the General Fund unappropriated surplus of \$21,000,000 to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund and the transfer of the same amount by the end of fiscal year 2014-15 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund; and transfers \$4,000,000 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and \$21,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund by the end of fiscal year 2014-15.

**LD 1767      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Purchase of the      ONTP**  
**Bar Harbor Ferry Terminal**

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

This bill authorizes a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$3,000,000 to be used to purchase the Bar Harbor Ferry Terminal from the government of Canada.

**LD 1806      An Act To Implement the Recommendations Contained in the State      PUBLIC 602**  
**Government Evaluation Act Review of the Maine Public Employees**  
**Retirement System**

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

This Act implements the recommendations contained in the State Government Evaluation Act review of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Part A permits the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to combine the assets of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program with the assets of other programs for investment purposes, but specifies that the assets of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program may be used only for the benefit of