

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH 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
126TH 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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 126th 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

the employees and beneficiaries of that program and may not be used to satisfy the liabilities of any other program within the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Part B adds emergency medical services persons to the category of participating local district employees for which a special retirement plan is available.

Part C requires the Executive Director of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to establish a task force to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System on an environmental, social and governance policy and to report by January 15, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public employee retirement matters on the recommendations made and the board's resulting action.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 602 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 the employees and beneficiaries of that program and may not be used to satisfy the liabilities of any other program within the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Part B adds emergency medical services persons to the category of participating local district employees for which a special retirement plan is available.

Part C requires the Executive Director of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to establish a task force to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System on an environmental, social and governance policy and to report by January 15, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public employee retirement matters on the recommendations made and the board's resulting action.

LD 1807

An Act To Restore Funding in the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund through Alternative Sources

**PUBLIC 487
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE THIBODEAU	OTP-AM	H-720

This bill restores funding to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund as affected by Public Law 2013, chapter 451 (see LD 1762).

Part A repeals the transfer in fiscal year 2013-14 of \$21,000,000 to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund and repeals the transfer of \$21,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2014-15. Both transfers were enacted in Public Law 2013, chapter 451.

Part B reduces funding for retiree health insurance as the result of a new actuarial projection.

Part C lapses \$10,169,276 from the unencumbered balance forward of the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program in the Department of Education to the General Fund in fiscal year 2013-14.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-720)

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 487 restores funding to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund as affected by Public Law 2013, chapter 451.

Part A repeals the transfer in fiscal year 2013-14 of \$21,000,000 to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund and repeals the transfer of \$21,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2014-15. Both transfers were enacted in Public Law 2013, chapter 451.

Part B reduces funding for retiree health insurance as the result of a new actuarial projection.

Part C lapses \$10,169,276 from the unencumbered balance forward of the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program in the Department of Education to the General Fund in fiscal year 2013-14.

Public Law 2013, chapter 487 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 21, 2014.

**LD 1827 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Maine
Small Business and Job Creation**

PUBLIC 596

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

OTP-AM

S-555

This bill was reported out by the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future pursuant to Joint Order S.P. 27 and Joint Order S.P. 602, and was subsequently referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

Part A of the bill provides for a bond issue in the amount of \$73,000,000 to be used to provide funds to the Finance Authority of Maine, the Maine Technology Institute, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the University of Maine System, The Jackson Laboratory and the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory. The funds would be used to:

1. Provide \$5,000,000 to insure portions of loans to small businesses made by a participating financial institution to spur investment and innovation;
2. Provide \$15,000,000 for state, regional and local financial intermediaries to make flexible loans to and investments in small businesses to create jobs;
3. Provide \$10,000,000 to promote research, development and commercialization for economic development and private sector job creation, awarded after a competitive process administered by the Maine Technology Institute, and leverage matching funds on at least a one-to-one basis;
4. Provide \$15,000,000, to be matched by \$16,000,000 in private and public contributions, to 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;
5. Provide \$5,000,000, to be matched by \$9,500,000 in private and public funds, to modernize and expand infrastructure at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory needed to increase biotechnology workforce training from 350 to 500 students a year, retain in and recruit to Maine multiple biomedical research and