

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

August 2015

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH 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 127th 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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>
<i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i>	<i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i>
<i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i>	<i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>
<i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i>	<i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted private & special law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted public law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of finally passed resolve</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is October 15, 2015. 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

PART G requires the Superintendent of Riverview Psychiatric Center to provide monthly reports that include updates on the number of staff and patient injuries and the use of overtime to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services for the remainder of fiscal year 2014-15. It also requires the State Budget Officer to calculate the amount of General Fund salary savings resulting from filling the Riverview Psychiatric Center positions authorized by this Act later than April 1, 2015 and to transfer those savings to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2015.

PART H requires the State Controller to transfer \$4,333,751 from the General Fund reserve account for future funding needs to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2015.

PART I suspends the duties and responsibilities of the members of the State Board of Corrections and prohibits them from performing those duties and responsibilities until July 1, 2015 and requires the Commissioner of Corrections, or the commissioner's designee, to assume the duties of the State Board of Corrections until July 1, 2015 and to distribute fiscal year 2014-15 supplemental payments to support county jail operations. It requires the Department of Corrections to provide administrative support for the operations of the commissioner when the commissioner is acting as the State Board of Corrections and authorizes the commissioner or the commissioner's designee to request the assistance of the Office of the Attorney General and other agencies of the State or the counties whenever necessary. This Part also provides one-time additional appropriations to the State Board of Corrections Operational Support Fund program in fiscal year 2014-15.

PART J repeals Public Law 2013, chapter 595, Part Q, section 1, which requires the Department of Health and Human Services to modify the timing of MaineCare payments to achieve one-time savings in fiscal year 2015.

PART K directs the State Controller to transfer \$500,000 from the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2015.

PART L transfers \$1,493,566 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Community College System for the costs of collective bargaining agreements for employees of the Maine Community College System that occurred during fiscal year 2013-14 and fiscal year 2014-15.

PART M authorizes year-end All Other balances in the Office of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations program to carry from fiscal year 2014-15 to fiscal year 2015-16 to be used to upgrade computer software for the boards and commissions program.

PART N provides that the funding for equipment and supplies for the State Police contained in Part C is contingent on additional funding being provided from the Highway Fund.

Public Law 2015, chapter 16 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 12, 2015.

LD 254

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Waterfront Development

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
HASKELL
SAUCIER

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, will be used to fund a grant program to invest in projects that contribute to economic activity, environmental protection and community development along the State's waterfronts. This bill also enacts a grant program for waterfront development, which is modeled after the Riverfront Community Development Program.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 994 as amended by H-504.

LD 271 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Intermodal Transportation Facilities ONTP

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$28,000,000, will be used to develop intermodal transportation facilities in the City of Portland to improve the area in which the railway, highway and interstate bus systems intersect.

LD 354 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Enhance Public Transportation in the Bangor Area CARRIED OVER

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$3,000,000, will be used to improve public transportation via Interstate 95 between Newport and Bangor and between Medway and Bangor.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 994 as amended by H-504.

LD 385 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Improvements to Facilities at the University of Maine System Campuses CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILL TIPPING-SPITZ		

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$70,000,000, will be used to improve and modernize campus halls, roads, parking areas, footpaths, roofs, windows and facilities at the University of Maine System campuses to increase their lifespans and energy efficiency.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 994 as amended by H-504.

LD 386 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Farmland Restoration CARRIED OVER

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