

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

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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.

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 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.

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The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used for food processing infrastructure in rural areas of the State.

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 998 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Collect Data on and To Monitor Ocean Acidification CARRIED OVER

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$3,000,000, will be used to collect data, monitor waterways and perform tests related to the known increasing ocean acidity along the Maine coast and its impact on natural wildlife and commercially important species in Maine waters, such as lobsters and clams.

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 1018 An Act To Make Certain Necessary Appropriations and Allocations CARRIED OVER

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to make appropriations and allocations necessary for the proper operation of State Government.

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 1019 An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017 PUBLIC 267 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROTUNDO HAMPER	OTP-AM OTP-AM	H-415 S-287 HAMPER S-288 HAMPER

This bill is the Governor's proposed biennial budget for the 2016-2017 biennium. This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

PART A makes appropriations and allocations of funds for the 2016-2017 biennium.

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PART B makes appropriations and allocations of funds for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C establishes the Total Cost of Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 for fiscal year 2015-16, the state contribution and the annual target state share percentage.

PART D repeals the excise tax on telecommunications equipment and repeals the telecommunications equipment exemption from local property taxation.

PART E removes the full exemption from property taxation on properties owned by certain nonprofit organizations with an assessed value in excess of \$500,000 and reduces the exemption to 50% on the portion of the value in excess of \$500,000.

PART F amends the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption to restrict the exemption to residents who are 65 or older and to increase the exemption from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2015.

PART G phases out and eliminates the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) program and transitions property eligible for the BETR program as of April 1, 2015 into the Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) program.

PART H does the following: 1) extends the current tax rates past the current sunset date of June 30, 2015 to December 31, 2015, and sets new rates effective January 1, 2016; 2) extends the sales and use tax to consumer purchases of various new services effective January 1, 2016; 3) changes the sales and use tax law as it applies to leases so that the tax must be collected on the "lease stream" effective January 1, 2016; 4) enacts a collection allowance in order to compensate retailers for the administrative costs involved in charging, collecting and remitting the sales tax; and 5) makes various other related changes.

PART I amends the service provider tax in order to increase the rate effective January 1, 2016; expands the tax to basic cable and satellite television services, including radio services; provides for the taxation of interstate and international telephone services sold to non-business customers; and makes other changes consistent with the changes to the sales and use tax law made by Part E.

PART J increases the exclusion amounts for estates of decedent dying in calendar year 2016 to the amount estimated to be the federal exclusion for the estates of 2016 decedents and eliminates the Maine estate tax for decedents dying on or after January 1, 2017.

PART K does the following: 1) repeals the provision of law requiring Maine Revenue Services to provide for the assignment of income tax refunds on income tax returns to the NextGen college tuition program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine; 2) reduces the individual income tax rates over four years; 3) repeals the income addition modification for State contributions to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System on behalf of the taxpayer for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 4) repeals and replaces the current Maine pension deduction for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 5) increases the current Maine pension deduction for non-military retirement plan benefits from \$10,000 to \$35,000 over a 5-year period beginning in 2016 and exempts from Maine income tax 100% of military retirement plan benefits for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 6) repeals the income subtraction modification for long-term care premiums paid for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 7) repeals the income subtraction modification for contributions of up to \$250 per beneficiary to 529 college tuition plans for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 8) repeals Maine itemized deductions for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 9) reduces the corporate income tax rates over five years; 10) eliminates the corporate alternative minimum tax for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 11) creates a refundable individual income tax sales tax fairness credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 12) repeals the jobs and investment tax credit, but retains the carryforward of unused credit amounts for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 13) repeals the credit for contributions to family

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development account reserve funds for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 14) increases the income tax credit for child care expenses that do not qualify as quality child care expenses to 50% of the federal child care credit for the taxable year; 15) repeals the credit for employer-assisted day care, but retains the carryforward of unused credit amounts for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 16) repeals the employer-provided long-term care benefits credit, but retains the carryforward of unused credit amounts for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 17) repeals the retirement and disability credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 18) repeals the forest management planning income tax credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 19) repeals the high-technology investment tax credit, but retains the carryforward of unused credit amounts for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 20) repeals the credit for dependent health benefits paid by an employer, but retains the carryforward of unused credit amounts for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 21) repeals the quality child care investment credit, but retains the carryforward of unused credit amounts for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 22) repeals the Maine earned income tax credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 23) repeals the credit for biofuel commercial production and commercial use, but retains the carryforward of unused credit amounts for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 24) makes the following changes to the property tax fairness credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015: a) clarifies that the benefit base cap that applies to married taxpayers filing joint or head-of-household returns also applies to taxpayers whose filing status is qualifying widow(er); b) amends the property tax fairness credit to remove the reference to married individuals filing separate returns; and c) restricts married individuals filing separate returns from taking the property tax fairness credit; 25) makes the following changes to the property tax fairness credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016: a) increases the maximum property tax paid (or rent constituting property tax paid) that may be claimed for the credit; b) increases the credit amounts and increases the maximum credits for individuals younger than 65 and for individuals 65 or older; c) creates a medical expense tax credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; and d) removes charitable contribution checkoffs from Maine individual income tax forms for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; and 26) amends the law governing the inflation adjustment of individual income tax rate brackets, the maximum itemized deduction amount, the benefit base amounts in the sales and property tax fairness credits, and the pension deduction in order to reflect amendments to the individual income tax rate schedules, the property tax fairness credit benefit base amounts and pension deduction amount, the repeal of the allowance of itemized deductions and enactment of the sales tax fairness credit for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015.

PART L adjusts revenue sharing for fiscal year 2015-16 to set a fixed amount of total revenue sharing transfers to approximately the current projected level of fiscal year 2014-15 and repeals revenue sharing July 30, 2016.

PART M does the following: 1) revises the distribution of available balances in the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund. In addition to the fixed transfer replenishing the Contingent Account up to \$350,000 and the fixed transfer for the Loan Insurance Reserve up to an amount of \$1,000,000, this part establishes a fixed transfer for the General Fund Operating Reserve to an amount up to \$2,500,000 and the Retiree Health Internal Service Fund up to an amount of \$4,000,000 over the 2016-2017 biennium and up to an amount of \$2,000,000 thereafter; 2) revises the growth limitation factor to the 10 year average of nominal personal income growth plus one; 3) sets the “biennial base year appropriation” to the appropriation enacted for fiscal year 2016-17 as of December 1, 2016; 4) eliminates all language dealing with the calculation of the state tax burden and how the growth limitation factor changes depending on the State’s ranking; and 5) revises the appropriation limitation to be based on all General Funding spending.

PART N authorizes new Maine Governmental Facilities Authority borrowing of \$112,000,000 to provide funding for capital repairs and improvements to state facilities.

PART O reduces the amount of funding transferred from the real estate transfer tax to the Maine State Housing Authority by increasing the amount transferred to the General Fund of \$6,291,740 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$6,090,367 in fiscal year 2016-17.

PART P continues authorization for each individual tax expenditure provided by statute.

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PART Q recognizes an increase in the attrition rate to 3% for the 2016-2017 biennium for judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies.

PART R authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Central Fleet Management Division.

PART S authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Department of Public Safety.

PART T continues the voluntary employee incentive program through the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART U requires the State Controller to transfer \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium, as a one-time transfer, from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services, Other Special Revenue account within the Department.

PART V makes the Director of the Division of Quality Assurance and Regulation and the Director of the Division of Animal and Plant Health, within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, no longer subject to appointment by the commissioner.

PART W removes the Director, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

PART X gradually reduces the added surcharge assessed on product name commercial feed pet food and home-based manufacturer of pet food over the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART Y creates a new Bureau of Conservation and reduces the overall number of bureaus.

PART Z increases the annual fee paid by the State to appointed forest fire wardens from \$100 to \$400.

PART AA expands the forest ranger duties with respect to detecting and monitoring conditions potentially injurious to the health of the forest resources of the state. All law enforcement duties are reassigned to Natural Resources Law Enforcement Officers within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

PART BB does the following: 1) amends the definition of forest management and harvest plan as proposed in the Maine Forest Service 2014 report to the Taxation Committee (both Tree Growth and Open Space Laws); 2) requires landowners to have access to their forest management and harvest plans as proposed in the Maine Forest Service 2014 report to the Taxation Committee; 3) requires a sworn statement from a licensed forester that the landowner is following the licensed forester's plan; 4) gives the Maine Forest Service the authority to require landowners to submit plans directly to the Maine Forest Service for review, and to allow the Maine Forest Service to inspect properties for compliance; 5) repeals the Maine Forest Service audit sunset date; 6) authorizes the State Tax Assessor to reduce a municipality's Tree Growth reimbursement for one year if: (a) the town fails to timely file its Tree Growth information with the Maine Forest Service as required by law; and (b) the town fails to timely act upon recommendations by the Maine Forest Service regarding a landowner's compliance with the law's requirements; and 7) provides for a penalty if a landowner found in non-compliance transfers the landowner's land from Tree Growth to Open Space or Farmland.

PART CC reduces the minimum number of field foresters in the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry from 16 to 10.

PART DD eliminates the training and policy exemption for an agent or representative of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

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PART EE repeals the requirement that the former Department of Conservation sell all bullet proof vests, firearms and related equipment. It also repeals the statute prohibiting the Commissioner of Conservation (now Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry) from purchasing bullet proof vests, firearms or related material without specific authorization from the Legislature.

PART FF authorizes a one-time transfer of all funds in excess of \$500,000 from unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services line category in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to fund the overhaul of existing helicopters.

PART GG renames various programs within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Agricultural Resource Development.

PART HH strikes and replaces references to the Department of the Attorney General with the Department of Health and Human Services to reflect the transfer of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner training program from the Department of the Attorney General to the Department of Health and Human Services.

PART II authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer by financial order Personal Services, All Other and Capital Expenditures funding between accounts within the same fund for the purposes of paying departmental overtime expenses for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART JJ allows the Department of Corrections to carry unexpended Personal Services balances to the Capital Expenditures line category in the following year for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART KK requires the Commissioner of Corrections to review the current organizational structure to improve organizational efficiency and authorizes the State Budget Officer to transfer positions and available balances by financial order. The ability to make these transfers is limited to the period of July 1st to December 1st of each fiscal year in the 2016-2017 biennium. Any transfers resulting in a mission change or facility closure must have legislative review.

PART LL authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer from the All Other line category funds by financial order between accounts within the same fund for the purposes of paying food, heating and utility expenses for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART MM provides temporary funding for the Administration - Maine Emergency Management Agency program within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management until federal funding becomes available.

PART NN lapses \$1,537,761 in each fiscal year of the biennium to unappropriated surplus of the General Fund that is not anticipated to be needed by the Maine Technology Institute in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART OO removes the Chief Academic Officer and Director, Special Services Team positions from the list of major policy-influencing positions within the Department of Education and from the list of the Commissioner of Education's appointments within the department.

PART PP authorizes the Department of Education to purchase portable computer devices for students and educators in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART QQ transfers \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium, as a one-time transfer, from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, Other Special Revenue account within the Department.

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PART RR renames the PK-20, Adult Education and Federal Programs Team program within the Department of Education to the Learning Systems Team.

PART SS aligns and standardizes the statutory range of licensing fees for adult and children's residential drug treatment centers, children's residential care facilities, and licensed mental health services and standardizes the issuance of a full license for a term of two years.

PART TT directs the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a Medicaid state plan amendment to remove the income disregard and effectively reduce the income limits to the federal minimums required in the Medicare savings program. It also reduces the income limit in the elderly low-cost drug program.

PART UU requires a liquid asset test in eligibility determinations for the Low Cost Drugs for the Elderly and Disabled program.

Part VV gives the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to adopt emergency rules to implement any provisions of this Act over which it has specific authority that has not been addressed by some other Part of the Act without the necessity of demonstrating that immediate adoption is necessary to avoid a threat to public health, safety or welfare.

PART WW allows remaining balances at the end of each fiscal year in the Consumer Directed Services program and the Bridging Rental Assistance Program General Fund accounts in the Department of Health and Human Services to be carried forward for use by the program in the next fiscal year.

PART XX establishes the Bridging Rental Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services.

PART YY authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer funds appropriated for state supplemental income for blind, disabled and elderly people authorized under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, sections 3271 and 3274 by financial order to the Department of Health and Human Services Departmentwide account.

PART ZZ does the following: 1) repeals the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a food supplement program for non-citizens who would be eligible for federal SNAP benefits but for their status as aliens under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; 2) repeals the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide supplemental security income for non-citizens who would be eligible for federal Supplemental Security Income but for their status as aliens under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; and 3) repeals the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide financial assistance to individuals who would be eligible for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families but for their status as aliens under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

PART AAA authorizes the transfer of available Personal Services or All Other balances from the Department of Health and Human Services, Developmental Services-Community program account to the Crisis Outreach Program account for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART BBB changes the disability determination cut-off from 45 days to 90 days for applications for aid based on a disability and eliminates the requirement to provide state-funded temporary medical coverage and directs the Department of Health and Human Services to seek relief from the decision process required by the *Polk v. Longley* consent decision.

PART CCC authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer funds between the General Fund accounts of the MaineCare related appropriations for the 2016-2017 biennium.

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PART DDD authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to eliminate General Assistance to non-citizens who are not qualified to receive such assistance pursuant to federal law.

PART EEE authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer Family Support funds in the Developmental Services - Community program to the Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office program and the Long Term Care - Office of Aging and Disability Services program by financial order.

PART FFF authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer appropriations from the Nursing Facilities program to the Home Based Care program when individuals meet the transition criteria.

PART GGG authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer appropriations within the Office of Child and Family Services related to the child welfare program.

PART HHH authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to change the rate of reimbursement for critical access hospitals.

PART III changes the salary of one Deputy Commissioner in the Department of Health and Human Services from range 38 to range 90.

PART JJJ does the following: 1) authorizes the transfer by financial order of any available appropriations including those in Personal Services, to MaineCare in order to fully fund weekly cycle payments; and 2) authorizes the transfer by financial order of available Personal Services balances in the Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center program, the Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center program and the Riverview Psychiatric Center program in order to provide funds for an electronic medical records system.

PART KKK makes a technical correction to the state valuation amount recorded in state reimbursement to municipalities for municipal general assistance, changes the method of reimbursement methodology and requires monthly reporting for any municipality expected to receive more than \$10,000 in the current fiscal year.

PART LLL transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations program, General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft in fiscal year 2015-16.

PART MMM transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2015-16 and one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2016-17.

PART NNN amends language pertaining to the Lifetime License Fund such that the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife can request the Treasurer of State transfer less than 5% of the Lifetime License Fund's principal balance on an annual basis.

PART OOO amends the fiscal stability program to begin in the 2017-2018 biennium.

PART PPP raises the per diem compensation for active retired judges from \$300/day to \$500/day. It fixes the per diem compensation for active retired family law magistrates at 75% of the per diem compensation paid to active retired judges. It also provides for the same limitations on compensation and benefits as exists for other retired state employees who retire and return to work under Title 5, section 17859.

PART QQQ makes the mileage rate paid to jurors pursuant to Title 5 section 8 begin in fiscal year 2016-17 and increases the daily rate paid to jurors from \$10 per day to \$15 per day.

PART RRR eliminates the municipality of Madawaska as a place to hold district court.

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PART SSS authorizes a range change for the Administrator, Office of Securities from range 88 to range 90 in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

PART TTT does the following: 1) amends Title 20-A, section 6103 to reflect the deposit of fees for criminal history record checks to the Department of Public Safety rather than to Department of Education; 2) provides that, with respect to fingerprint-supported criminal history record checks, the full fee charged must be deposited in an Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purpose of paying the costs of the Department of Public Safety to administer the criminal history record check program; and 3) transfers the cash balance of the Criminal History Record Check Fund from the Department of Education to the Department of Public Safety.

PART UUU authorizes the Department of Secretary of State to carry Personal Services funding in the Administration - Archives program and authorizes the carried funds to be transferred by financial order to the All Other line category in the same program.

PART VVV transfers \$900,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$750,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Callahan Mine Site Restoration program, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Transportation.

PART WWW removes the media and public information officer from the appointment authority of the Commissioner of Corrections. This position is proposed to be eliminated effective in fiscal year 2015-16.

PART XXX continues limited period positions set to expire June 2015 through August 1, 2015.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-415)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and it replaces the bill.

PART A makes appropriations and allocations of funds for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART B makes appropriations and allocations of funds for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C establishes the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year 2015-16, the state contribution and the annual target state share percentage and makes other changes related to the funding of K-12 education.

PART D repeals the requirement that the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Attorney General pursue federal funding to establish a cold case homicide unit and provision of law that makes establishment of a cold case homicide unit contingent upon availability of federal funding.

PART E makes changes to the timing of transfers from the General Fund undedicated revenue to the Maine Clean Election Fund in 2016 and 2017.

PART F amends the laws governing disclosures made by lobbyists.

PART G directs the Judicial Department to conduct or contract for architectural feasibility studies to improve court facilities in Oxford County, Waldo County and York County and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by January 1, 2017.

PART H provides for an interfund advance of \$37,000,000 from Other Special Revenue Funds to the General Fund unappropriated surplus required for one day at the end of fiscal year 2015-16.

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PART I reduces funding for debt service in fiscal year 2014-2015.

PART J provides that, for estates of decedents dying on or after January 1, 2016, the amount excluded from the Maine estate tax is the same as the applicable federal exclusion amount, which is indexed annually for inflation.

PART K increases the homestead property tax exemption from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2016 and requires the State to reimburse municipalities for 100% for the property tax loss attributable to the increase in the first two years and 75% of the property tax loss in subsequent years.

PART L adjusts municipal revenue sharing for fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 to set a fixed level of total revenue sharing transfers of \$62,500,000, which is approximately the current projected level for fiscal year 2014-15.

PART M does the following: 1) changes the distribution of available balances in the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund; 2) changes the growth limitation factor in the laws governing limits on government spending and sets the biennial base year appropriation to the appropriation for the 2018-2019 biennium enacted for fiscal year 2016-17 as of December 1, 2016; 3) eliminates all language dealing with the calculation of the state and local tax burden and how the growth limitation factor changes depending on how the state and local tax burden of this State compares to that of other states; and 4) raises the limit on the balance in the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund from 12% of total General Fund revenues in the immediately preceding state fiscal year to 18%.

PART N authorizes new Maine Governmental Facilities Authority borrowing to provide funding for capital repairs and improvements to state facilities.

PART O reduces the amount of funding transferred from the real estate transfer tax to the Maine State Housing Authority in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART P continues authorization for each individual tax expenditure provided by statute.

PART Q establishes an attrition rate of 3% for the 2016-2017 biennium for all judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies, except the District Attorneys Salaries program and directs the State Budget Officer to make certain considerations when developing budgeted attrition savings.

PART R authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Central Fleet Management Division.

PART S authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the State Police.

PART T continues the voluntary employee incentive program for state employees through the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART U requires the State Controller to transfer \$750,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services - Administration, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

PART V provides that the Director of the Division of Quality Assurance and Regulation and the Director of the Division of Animal and Plant Health, both within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, are no longer subject to appointment by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

PART W extends the requirement that the Commissioner of Corrections, or the commissioner's designee, assume the duties of the State Board of Corrections from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016. This Part also requires the Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee to distribute fiscal year 2015-16 payments to support

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county jail operations.

PART X transfers \$700,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 from the Dirigo Health Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

PART Y clarifies the powers and duties of the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

PART Z provides emergency rule-making authority to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services necessary to implement a rate increase for assigned counsel and contract counsel.

PART AA requires the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to appoint no fewer than 45 and no more than 50 Forest Ranger II positions, subject to the Civil Service Law. Additionally, the director is required to appoint no fewer than 17 forest rangers classified as follows: three Regional Rangers, eight District Rangers, one Forest Fire Prevention Specialist, one Ranger Pilot Supervisor and four Ranger Pilots. It also adds additional forest ranger duties. It also repeals two provisions of Public Law 1999, chapter 352 that require the Commissioner of Conservation to sell all bullet-proof vests, firearms and related equipment and that prohibit the commissioner from purchasing bullet-proof vests, firearms or related equipment without specific authorization by the Legislature.

PART BB requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with a third party to conduct a rate study of medication management services and outpatient services under Rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Section 65: Behavioral Health Services and all services in Section 28: Rehabilitative and Community Support Services for Children with Cognitive Impairments and Functional Limitations.

PART CC requires the unused balance of Part A appropriations to the Drug Enforcement Agency program within the Department of Public Safety for processing crime scenes involving the seizure of methamphetamine laboratories and Part A All Other appropriations to the Remediation and Waste Management program within the Department of Environmental Protection not used for cleanup of illegal drug operations or natural gas contamination be transferred to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30th of each year of the biennium.

PART DD limits the exemption from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy training standards and law enforcement agency policy requirements under Title 25, chapter 341 to agents or representatives of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry who do not carry a firearm.

PART EE provides an income tax exemption for benefits received under a military retirement plan up to \$25,000 for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

PART FF authorizes a one-time transfer of all funds in excess of \$500,000 from unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to fund the overhaul of helicopters owned by the State.

PART GG limits timber harvesting on public reserved lands and nonreserved public lands to an average of 160,000 cords per year over any three-year period. It allows the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by rule, based on an independent timber inventory conducted after July 1, 2015, to establish a different sustainable harvest level. The rules are major substantive rules and must be reviewed by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public reserved and nonreserved lands matters.

PART HH transfers the sexual assault forensic examiner training program from the Department of the Attorney General to the Department of Health and Human Services.

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PART II authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer Personal Services, All Other and Capital Expenditures funding between accounts within the same fund for the purpose of paying departmental overtime expenses for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART JJ provides that if an applicant for general assistance under Title 22, chapter 1161 has been released from a correctional facility within 45 days of application, the municipality of responsibility for the first 12 months of benefits is the municipality that was on record as the residence of the applicant when the applicant was committed to the correctional facility. It requires that a responsible municipality accept applications by telephone as long as the call is being made from a municipal office and the written application is contemporaneously faxed or sent electronically to the municipality of responsibility.

PART KK requires the Commissioner of Corrections to review the current organizational structure of the Department of Corrections to improve organizational efficiency and authorizes the State Budget Officer to transfer positions and available balances based on the review by financial order and establishes reporting requirements for certain transfers. The ability to make these transfers as an adjustment to position count or appropriations is limited to the period of July 1st to December 1st of each fiscal year in the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART LL authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer, from the All Other line category, funds by financial order between accounts within the same fund for the purposes of paying food, heating and utility expenses for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART MM provides temporary funding for the Administration - Maine Emergency Management Agency program within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management until federal funding becomes available.

PART NN lapses \$1,537,761 in each fiscal year of the biennium to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund that is not anticipated to be needed by the Maine Technology Institute in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART OO removes the Chief Academic Officer and Director, Special Services Team positions from the list of major policy-influencing positions within the Department of Education and eliminates the Deputy Chief of Staff position and creates a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Workforce Coordinator position in the list of the Commissioner of Education's appointments within the department.

PART PP authorizes the Department of Education to purchase portable computer devices for students and educators in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART QQ transfers \$750,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education.

PART RR renames the PK-20, Adult Education and Federal Programs Team program within the Department of Education the Learning Systems Team program.

PART SS aligns and standardizes the statutory range of licensing fees for adult and children's residential drug treatment centers, children's residential care facilities and mental health services facilities with the exact fees to be established by rule by the Department of Health and Human Services. This Part also standardizes the terms of these licenses at two years.

PART TT creates a stakeholder group, including representatives of patients and outpatient methadone treatment providers, to review criteria for receiving treatment, prior approvals and treatment service options for patients seeking methadone treatment services and establishes reporting requirements.

PART UU establishes a liquid asset test in eligibility determinations for the elderly low cost drug program.

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PART VV gives the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to adopt emergency rules to implement any provisions of this Act over which it has specific authority that has not been addressed by some other Part of the Act.

PART WW allows remaining balances at the end of each fiscal year in the Consumer-directed Services program and the Bridging Rental Assistance Program, General Fund accounts in the Department of Health and Human Services to be carried forward for use by those programs in the next fiscal year.

PART XX establishes the Bridging Rental Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services. The program provides up to 24 months of housing assistance to persons with mental illness transitioning to Section 8 housing assistance or an alternative housing placement.

PART YY authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer funds appropriated for state supplemental income for blind, disabled and elderly people authorized under Title 22, sections 3271 and 3274 by financial order to the Department of Health and Human Services, Departmentwide program.

PART ZZ directs the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the cities of Lewiston and Auburn and the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, to conduct a study and complete a plan for the implementation of passenger rail service between the cities of Lewiston and Auburn and the Amtrak Downeaster service. This Part also provides for a transfer \$150,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Multimodal - Passenger Rail program, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Transportation and requires the cities of Lewiston and Auburn to remit \$50,000 each to the State to fund the study.

PART AAA authorizes the transfer of available Personal Services or All Other balances from the Department of Health and Human Services, Developmental Services - Community program account to the Crisis Outreach Program account for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART BBB requires the Department of Health and Human Services to request a waiver to include as a reimbursable service under MaineCare home-delivered meals to individuals qualified for MaineCare benefits who also are experiencing transitions of care, have debilitating or acute illnesses or are primarily homebound and unable to prepare nutritious meals.

PART CCC authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer available balances of appropriations between the MaineCare General Fund accounts for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART DDD implements certain recommendations of the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine.

PART EEE authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer family support services funds in the Developmental Services - Community program to the Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office program and the Long Term Care - Office of Aging and Disability Services program by financial order.

PART FFF authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer appropriations from the Nursing Facilities program to the home-based care program.

PART GGG authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer appropriations within the Office of Child and Family Services related to the cost of administering the child welfare program.

PART HHH authorizes a school board to designate an existing school or establish a new school to be a community school that participates with community partners to provide various educational and social services to students, families and community members and provides the steps a school board must complete in order to establish a new community school. This Part also authorizes the Department of Education to provide funding to support the

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implementation of three community schools.

PART III changes the salary of one deputy commissioner in the Department of Health and Human Services from range 38 to range 90.

PART JJJ authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer by financial order any available appropriations, including those in Personal Services, between MaineCare accounts and to transfer by financial order available Personal Services balances in the Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center program, the Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center program and the Riverview Psychiatric Center program in order to provide funds for an electronic medical records system.

PART KKK provides for the allocation of funding among Maine's federally qualified health centers to support access to primary medical, behavioral health and dental services for residents in rural and underserved communities.

PART LLL transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft in fiscal year 2015-16.

PART MMM transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2015-16 and one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2016-17.

PART NNN amends language pertaining to the Lifetime License Fund to allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to request that the Treasurer of State transfer less than 5% of the Lifetime License Fund's principal balance on an annual basis.

PART OOO amends the Fiscal Stability Program established to support the fish and wildlife conservation programs of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife so that it begins in the 2018-2019 biennium.

PART PPP requires the Department of Education to develop and support local food training programs for public school food service personnel and facilitate the use of local food hubs to expand the use of local foods in schools.

PART QQQ ties the mileage rate paid to jurors to the rate paid by the State to state employees who use their vehicles for state business beginning July 1, 2016. It also increases the daily rate paid to jurors from \$10 per day to \$15 per day.

PART RRR makes changes to the educational opportunity tax credit.

PART SSS authorizes a range change from salary range 88 to salary range 90 for the Securities Administrator within the Office of Securities in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

PART TTT amends the law to require that fees for criminal history record checks for school employees be deposited in an Other Special Revenue account of the Department of Public Safety rather than the Department of Education and transfers the cash balance of the Criminal History Record Check Fund from the Department of Education to the Department of Public Safety.

PART UUU authorizes the Department of the Secretary of State to carry Personal Services and All Other funding in the Administration - Archives program and transfer balances to the All Other line category in the same program.

PART VVV requires the State Controller to transfer \$900,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$750,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Callahan Mine Site Restoration program, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Transportation.

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PART WWW removes the authority of the Commissioner of Corrections to appoint a media and public information officer.

PART XXX continues through August 1, 2015 limited-period positions that are set to expire during June 2015.

PART YYY requires the State Controller to transfer \$100,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium from the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund program, Bureau of Revenue Services Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the General Fund unappropriated surplus.

PART ZZZ changes the laws regarding the Maine Library of Geographic Information to specify that "state funds" includes only bond revenues and General Fund money and the laws regarding geospatial data accounts to clarify that only General Fund appropriations and bond proceeds are subject to a one-to-one match. Funds in those accounts from other sources do not require a match.

PART AAAA provides that balances remaining in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Information Services program, General Fund account must be carried forward in the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART BBBB establishes the Put ME to Work Program in the Maine Quality Centers; directs the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System to adopt necessary policies and procedures for the Maine Quality Centers; requires program participants to use existing financial aid resources available through their sponsoring postsecondary education institution before using program resources; and specifies certain wage parameters for participating employers. This Part is amended by Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A".

PART CCCC exempts from the motor vehicle excise tax adaptive equipment installed on a motor vehicle owned by a carrier engaged in furnishing passenger service for hire. It also reduces by half the motor vehicle registration fee of a passenger vehicle used for hire that is equipped with adaptive equipment to make that vehicle operable or accessible by a person with a disability.

PART DDDD provides that the average annual rate of earnable compensation of a member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System during the three years of creditable service as an employee in Maine, not necessarily consecutive, in which the member's annual rate of earnable compensation is highest must be determined as if the member had not been provided days off without pay or with reduced pay during fiscal year 2012-13 if the member elects to make a payment equal to the employee contribution that member would have made on compensation that would have been paid to that member on the days off without pay or at reduced pay.

PART EEEE authorizes the State Budget Officer to transfer up to \$6,500,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 and in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 from the Salary Plan program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to programs within the Department of Corrections to implement wage adjustments to aid in the recruitment and retention of employees and to provide parity between state correctional employees and county or regional jail employees who perform similar direct care or supervision of prisoners.

PART FFFF requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget to review vacant positions and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs with recommendations on eliminating vacant positions. The report must also be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation if the report includes positions funded by the Highway Fund or by internal service funds, enterprise funds or Other Special Revenue Funds accounts of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Safety or the Department of the Secretary of State.

PART GGGG requires the Attorney General and the eight district attorneys to jointly develop a proposed policy on the distribution of assistant district attorney positions across all prosecutorial districts that is equitable to each district. The Attorney General and the district attorneys must submit a written report that contains the proposed

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policy, a description of the process used to develop the proposed policy and any other information the Attorney General and the district attorneys believe is relevant. The Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

PART HHHH establishes the Commission To Study the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund.

PART IIII renames the Land and Water Quality program the Water Quality program and establishes the Land Resources program within the Department of Environmental Protection.

PART JJJJ changes the position of Director of the Bureau of Land and Water Quality to Director of the Bureau of Water Quality and adds the position of Director of the Bureau of Land Resources.

PART KKKK continues the authorization for the Maine Health Data Organization to transfer available Personal Services balances up to a specified amount to All Other in the Maine Health Data Organization, Other Special Revenue Funds account through the 2016-2017 biennium, the amount for the 2016-2017 biennium being raised to up to \$286,000, and clarifies that the transfer is authorized in each fiscal year of the biennium and is done by financial order.

PART LLLL provides an exemption from sales tax to certain greenhouse facilities for 95% of the sale price of fuel used by those greenhouse facilities. The exemption is repealed December 31, 2019.

PART MMMM amends the definition of "lead poisoning" in the Lead Poisoning Control Act, making the State's standard for lead exposure in children consistent with the federal standard. In addition, this Part grants the Department of Health and Human Services authority to impose penalties for violations of the Lead Poisoning Control Act and the rules adopted pursuant to that Act.

PART NNNN transfers \$200,000 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine to the Maine State Housing Authority and specifies that the funds must be used to provide loans and grants to low-income homeowners for repairs to remediate arsenic in drinking water.

PART OOOO provides that a portion of special revenues received by the Department of Environmental Protection related to uncontrolled hazardous substance sites must be transferred to the Board of Environmental Protection Fund.

PART PPPP provides an exemption from sales tax and service provider tax for certain nonprofit library collaboratives.

PART QQQQ maintains the sales tax on lodging; liquor sold in licensed establishments; and prepared food at 8% after July 1, 2015.

PART RRRR requires the Legislative Council to solicit bids for the equipment needed for the Maine Public Broadcasting Network to operate the Maine Capitol Connection channel.

PART SSSS establishes a working group to evaluate the extent to which extremely low-income households, including families, persons with disabilities and elderly persons, lack access to safe and affordable housing and the burden that this inadequacy creates for individuals and communities and authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development to report out a bill to implement the legislation.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-416)

This is the minority report of the committee and it replaces the bill.

PART A makes appropriations and allocations of funds for the 2016-2017 biennium.

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PART B makes appropriations and allocations of funds for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C establishes the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year 2015-16, the state contribution and the annual target state share percentage and makes other changes related to the funding of K-12 education; delays until fiscal year 2017-18 a requirement that \$4,000,000 in revenue from casinos provide start-up funds for public preschool programs; authorizes the Commissioner of Education to expend and disburse funds to support school improvement activities, enhancements to career and technical education programs and performance evaluation and professional growth systems; and directs the Department of Education to review certain essential programs and services components.

PART D maintains state-municipal revenue sharing at \$62,500,000 in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 and changes the share of income tax, sales tax and service provider tax that is transferred for revenue sharing beginning July 1, 2017 from 5% to 2%.

PART E provides that the sales tax rate on prepared food, liquor and lodging continues at 8% after June 30, 2015 and until January 1, 2016, when it increases to 9%, and that the sales tax rate on other tangible personal property and taxable services continues at 5.5% after June 30, 2015. It also expands the list of food products that are not exempt as grocery staples and are thus subject to sales tax

PART F increases the service provider tax from 5% to 6% on January 1, 2016 and expands the tax to cover basic cable and satellite television and radio services and international and interstate telecommunications service sold to a business for use directly in that business.

PART G makes the following changes to the income tax laws: 1) reduces the lower individual income tax rate from the current rate of 6.5% to 5% and the top rate from the current rate of 7.95 % to 6.2% over 4 years; 2) repeals individual income deductions for long-term care insurance and contributions to college savings programs and the jobs and investment tax credit; the credit for family development account reserve fund contributions; the credit for employer-provided long-term care benefits; the credit for employer-assisted day care; the retirement and disability credit; the forest management planning credit; the high-technology investment tax credit; the credit for certain employer-paid dependent health insurance; the credit for quality child care investment; the earned income tax credit; and the credit for biofuel commercial production and use; 3) reduces the cap on itemized deductions to \$25,000 for the 2016 tax years then increases it over four years to \$29,500; and 4) reduces the corporate income tax rate from the current rate of 8.93% to 7.5% over four years.

PART H provides that, for estates of decedents dying on or after January 1, 2016, the amount excluded from the Maine estate tax is the same as the applicable federal exclusion amount, which is indexed annually for inflation.

PART I phases out and eliminates the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement, or BETR, program and transitions property eligible for the BETR program as of April 1, 2015 into the so-called Business Equipment Tax Exemption, or BETE, program.

PART J makes changes to the timing of transfers from the General Fund undedicated revenue to the Maine Clean Election Fund in 2016 and 2017.

PART K reduces funding for debt service in fiscal year 2014-15.

PART L repeals the requirement that the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Attorney General pursue federal funding to establish a cold case homicide unit and the provision of law that makes establishment of a cold case homicide unit contingent upon availability of federal funding.

PART M does the following: 1) changes the distribution of available balances in the unappropriated surplus of the

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General Fund; changes the growth limitation factor in the laws governing limits on government spending; 2) sets the biennial base year appropriation to the appropriation for the 2018-2019 biennium enacted for fiscal year 2016-17 as of December 1, 2016; 3) eliminates all language dealing with the calculation of the state and local tax burden and how the growth limitation factor changes depending on how the state and local tax burden of this State compares to that of other states; and 4) changes the appropriation limitation to be based all General Fund spending; and raises the limit on the balance in the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund from 12% of total General Fund revenues in the immediately preceding state fiscal year to 18%.

PART N authorizes new Maine Governmental Facilities Authority borrowing to provide funding for capital repairs and improvements to state facilities.

PART O reduces the amount of funding transferred from the real estate transfer tax to the Maine State Housing Authority in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART P continues authorization for each individual tax expenditure provided by statute.

PART Q establishes an attrition rate of 3% for the 2016-2017 biennium for all judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies, except the District Attorneys Salaries program and directs the State Budget Officer to make certain considerations when developing budgeted attrition savings.

PART R authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Central Fleet Management Division.

PART S authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the State Police.

PART T continues the voluntary employee incentive program for state employees through the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART U requires the State Controller to transfer \$3,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services - Administration, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

PART V provides that the Director of the Division of Quality Assurance and Regulation and the Director of the Division of Animal and Plant Health, both within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, are no longer subject to appointment by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

PART W extends the requirement that the Commissioner of Corrections, or the commissioner's designee, assume the duties of the State Board of Corrections from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016. This Part also requires the Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee to distribute fiscal year 2015-16 payments to support county jail operations.

PART X transfers \$700,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 from the Dirigo Health Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

PART Y clarifies the powers and duties of the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

PART Z increases by \$10, from \$80 to \$90, the annual per product registration fee on pet food; increases the percentage of the registration fee revenues going to the General Fund from 50% to 60%, and decreases the percentage going to the Animal Welfare Fund from 50% to 40%; requires a yearly General Fund transfer from these revenues of \$100,000 to the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund, which had been funded by the \$20 annual per

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product pet food surcharge.

PART AA requires the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to appoint no fewer than 45 and no more than 50 Forest Ranger II positions, subject to the Civil Service Law. Additionally, the director is required to appoint no fewer than 17 forest rangers classified as follows: three Regional Rangers, eight District Rangers, one Forest Fire Prevention Specialist, one Ranger Pilot Supervisor and four Ranger Pilots. It also adds additional forest ranger duties. It also repeals two provisions of Public Law 1999, chapter 352 that require the Commissioner of Conservation to sell all bullet-proof vests, firearms and related equipment and that prohibit the commissioner from purchasing bullet-proof vests, firearms or related equipment without specific authorization by the Legislature.

PART BB requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with a third party to conduct a rate study of medication management services and outpatient services under Rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Section 65: Behavioral Health Services and all services in Section 28: Rehabilitative and Community Support Services for Children with Cognitive Impairments and Functional Limitations.

PART CC requires the unused balance of Part A appropriations to the Drug Enforcement Agency program within the Department of Public Safety for processing crime scenes involving the seizure of methamphetamine laboratories and All Other appropriations to the Remediation and Waste Management program within the Department of Environmental Protection not used for cleanup of illegal drug operations or natural gas contamination be transferred to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30th of each year of the biennium.

PART DD limits the exemption from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy training standards and law enforcement agency policy requirements under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, chapter 341 to agents or representatives of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry who do not carry a firearm.

PART EE repeals the provisions of law that require the Commissioner of Conservation to sell all bullet-proof vests, firearms and related equipment and that prohibit the commissioner from purchasing bullet-proof vests, firearms or related equipment without specific authorization by the Legislature.

PART FF authorizes a one-time transfer of all funds in excess of \$500,000 from unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to fund the overhaul of helicopters owned by the State.

PART GG limits timber harvesting on public reserved lands and nonreserved public lands to an average of 160,000 cords per year over any three-year period. It allows the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by rule, based on an independent timber inventory conducted after July 1, 2015, to establish a different sustainable harvest level. The rules are major substantive rules and must be reviewed by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public reserved and nonreserved lands matters.

PART HH transfers the sexual assault forensic examiner training program from the Department of the Attorney General to the Department of Health and Human Services.

PART II authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer, Personal Services, All Other and Capital Expenditures funding between accounts within the same fund for the purpose of paying departmental overtime expenses for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART JJ amends the laws governing disclosures made by lobbyists.

PART KK requires the Commissioner of Corrections to review the current organizational structure of the Department of Corrections to improve organizational efficiency and authorizes the State Budget Officer to transfer

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positions and available balances based on the review by financial order and establishes reporting requirements for certain transfers. The ability to make these transfers as an adjustment to position count or appropriations is limited to the period of July 1st to December 1st of each fiscal year in the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART LL authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer, from the All Other line category, funds by financial order between accounts within the same fund for the purposes of paying food, heating and utility expenses for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART MM provides temporary funding for the Administration - Maine Emergency Management Agency program within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management until federal funding becomes available.

PART NN lapses \$1,537,761 in each fiscal year of the biennium to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund that is not anticipated to be needed by the Maine Technology Institute in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART OO removes the Chief Academic Officer and Director, Special Services Team positions from the list of major policy-influencing positions within the Department of Education and eliminates the Deputy Chief of Staff position and creates a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Workforce Coordinator position in the list of the Commissioner of Education's appointments within the department.

PART PP authorizes the Department of Education to purchase portable computer devices for students and educators in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART QQ transfers \$3,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education.

PART RR renames the PK-20, Adult Education and Federal Programs Team program within the Department of Education the Learning Systems Team program.

PART SS aligns and standardizes the statutory range of licensing fees for adult and children's residential drug treatment centers, children's residential care facilities and mental health services facilities with the exact fees to be established by rule by the Department of Health and Human Services. This Part also standardizes the terms of these licenses at two years.

PART TT creates a stakeholder group, including representatives of patients and outpatient methadone treatment providers, to review criteria for receiving treatment, prior approvals and treatment service options for patients seeking methadone treatment services and establishes reporting requirements.

PART UU establishes a liquid asset test in eligibility determinations for the elderly low cost drug program.

PART VV gives the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to adopt emergency rules to implement any provisions of this Act over which it has specific authority that has not been addressed by some other Part of the Act.

PART WW allows remaining balances at the end of each fiscal year in the Consumer-directed Services program and the Bridging Rental Assistance Program, General Fund accounts in the Department of Health and Human Services to be carried forward for use by those programs in the next fiscal year.

PART XX establishes the Bridging Rental Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services. The program provides up to 24 months of housing assistance to persons with mental illness transitioning to Section 8 housing assistance or an alternative housing placement.

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PART YY authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer funds appropriated for state supplemental income for blind, disabled and elderly people authorized under Title 22, sections 3271 and 3274 by financial order to the Department of Health and Human Services, Departmentwide program.

PART ZZ repeals the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a food supplement program for noncitizens who would be eligible for federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits but for their status as aliens under the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; repeals the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide supplemental security income for noncitizens who would be eligible for federal supplemental security income but for their status as aliens under the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; and repeals the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide financial assistance to noncitizens who would be eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families but for their status as aliens under the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

PART AAA authorizes the transfer of available Personal Services or All Other balances from the Department of Health and Human Services, Developmental Services - Community program account to the Crisis Outreach Program account for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART BBB changes the disability determination time frame from 45 days to 90 days for applications for aid to needy persons based on a disability and eliminates the requirement to provide state-funded temporary medical coverage.

PART CCC authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer available balances of appropriations between the MaineCare General Fund accounts for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART DDD changes the definition of "eligible person" in the laws governing municipal general assistance to eliminate general assistance for certain aliens and nonimmigrants as defined in federal law.

PART EEE authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer family support services funds in the Developmental Services - Community program to the Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office program and the Long Term Care - Office of Aging and Disability Services program by financial order.

PART FFF authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer appropriations from the Nursing Facilities program to the home-based care program.

PART GGG authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer appropriations within the Office of Child and Family Services related to the cost of administering the child welfare program.

PART HHH directs the Judicial Department to conduct or contract for architectural feasibility studies to improve court facilities in Oxford County, Waldo County and York County and establishes reporting requirements.

PART III changes the salary of one deputy commissioner in the Department of Health and Human Services from range 38 to range 90.

PART JJJ authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer by financial order any available appropriations, including those in Personal Services, between MaineCare accounts and to transfer by financial order available Personal Services balances in the Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center program, the Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center program and the Riverview Psychiatric Center program in order to provide funds for an electronic medical records system.

PART KKK makes a correction to the state valuation amount recorded in state reimbursement to municipalities for municipal general assistance, changes the reimbursement methodology effective July 1, 2015 and requires monthly

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reporting for any municipality that received reimbursement of \$10,000 or more during the previous fiscal year or expects to receive more than \$10,000 in the current fiscal year..

PART LLL transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft in fiscal year 2015-16.

PART MMM transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2015-16 and one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2016-17.

PART NNN amends language pertaining to the Lifetime License Fund to allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to request that the Treasurer of State transfer less than 5% of the Lifetime License Fund's principal balance on an annual basis.

PART OOO amends the Fiscal Stability Program established to support the fish and wildlife conservation programs of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife so that it begins in the 2018-2019 biennium.

PART PPP permits adult offenders of any age to be housed at the Mountain View Youth Development Center. Current law allows only adult offenders who have not attained 26 years of age to be housed at the center.

PART QQQ ties the mileage rate paid to jurors to the rate paid by the State to state employees who use their vehicles for state business beginning July 1, 2016. It also increases the daily rate paid to jurors from \$10 per day to \$15 per day.

PART RRR eliminates the Town of Madawaska as a place to hold district court.

PART SSS authorizes a range change from salary range 88 to salary range 90 for the Securities Administrator within the Office of Securities in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

PART TTT amends the law to require that fees for criminal history record checks for school employees be deposited in an Other Special Revenue account of the Department of Public Safety rather than the Department of Education and transfers the cash balance of the Criminal History Record Check Fund from the Department of Education to the Department of Public Safety.

PART UUU authorizes the Department of the Secretary of State to carry Personal Services and All Other funding in the Administration - Archives program and transfer balances to the All Other line category in the same program.

PART VVV requires the State Controller to transfer \$900,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$750,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Callahan Mine Site Restoration program, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Transportation.

PART WWW removes the authority of the Commissioner of Corrections to appoint a media and public information officer.

PART XXX continues through August 1, 2015 limited-period positions that are set to expire during June 2015.

PART YYY requires the State Controller to transfer \$100,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium from the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund program, Bureau of Revenue Services Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the General Fund unappropriated surplus.

PART ZZZ changes the laws regarding the Maine Library of Geographic Information to specify that "state funds"

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includes only bond revenues and General Fund money and the laws regarding geospatial data accounts to clarify that only General Fund appropriations and bond proceeds are subject to a one-to-one match. Funds in those accounts from other sources do not require a match.

PART AAAA provides that balances remaining in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Information Services program, General Fund account must be carried forward in the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART BBBB repeals the provisions that require the rent paid for the Maine Military Authority facilities in Limestone to be paid to the Bureau of General Services in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and instead requires the rent be paid directly to the Loring Development Authority of Maine.

PART CCCC exempts from the motor vehicle excise tax adaptive equipment installed on a motor vehicle owned by a carrier engaged in furnishing passenger service for hire. It also reduces by half the motor vehicle registration fee of a passenger vehicle used for hire that is equipped with adaptive equipment to make that vehicle operable or accessible by a person with a disability.

PART DDDD provides that the average annual rate of earnable compensation of a member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System during the three years of creditable service as an employee in Maine, not necessarily consecutive, in which the member's annual rate of earnable compensation is highest must be determined as if the member had not been provided days off without pay or with reduced pay during fiscal year 2012-13 if the member elects to make a payment equal to the employee contribution that member would have made on compensation that would have been paid to that member on the days off without pay or at reduced pay.

PART EEEE authorizes the State Budget Officer to transfer up to \$6,500,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 and in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 from the Salary Plan program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to programs within the Department of Corrections to implement wage adjustments to aid in the recruitment and retention of employees and to provide parity between state correctional employees and county or regional jail employees who perform similar direct care or supervision of prisoners.

PART FFFF requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget to review vacant positions and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs with recommendations on eliminating vacant positions. The report must also be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation if the report includes positions funded by the Highway Fund or by internal service funds, enterprise funds or Other Special Revenue Funds accounts of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Safety or the Department of the Secretary of State.

PART GGGG requires the Attorney General and the eight district attorneys to jointly develop a proposed policy on the distribution of assistant district attorney positions across all prosecutorial districts that is equitable to each district. The Attorney General and the district attorneys must submit a written report that contains the proposed policy, a description of the process used to develop the proposed policy and any other information the Attorney General and the district attorneys believe is relevant. The Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

PART HHHH directs the Adjutant General to establish maximum hourly base rates of pay, overtime rates of pay or total compensation to comply with limits established in a master cooperative agreement or an appendix to such an agreement between the United States Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau and the State.

PART IIII renames the Land and Water Quality program the Water Quality program and establishes the Land Resources program within the Department of Environmental Protection.

PART JJJJ changes the position of Director of the Bureau of Land and Water Quality to Director of the Bureau of Water Quality and adds the position of Director of the Bureau of Land Resources.

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PART KKKK continues the authorization for the Maine Health Data Organization to transfer available Personal Services balances up to a specified amount to All Other in the Maine Health Data Organization, Other Special Revenue Funds account through the 2016-2017 biennium, the amount for the 2016-2017 biennium being raised to up to \$286,000, and clarifies that the transfer is authorized in each fiscal year of the biennium and is done by financial order.

PART LLLL transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to cover Personal Services costs in fiscal year 2014-15.

PART MMMM provides that a portion of special revenues received by the Department of Environmental Protection related to uncontrolled hazardous substance sites must be transferred to the Board of Environmental Protection Fund.

PART NNNN provides an exemption from sales tax and service provider tax for certain nonprofit library collaboratives.

PART OOOO provides emergency rule-making authority to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services necessary to implement a rate increase for assigned counsel and contract counsel.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-287)

This amendment makes the following clarifications to the Put ME to Work Program that is established in Committee Amendment "A":

1. It specifies that the job training programs must be established at the community colleges;
2. It specifies that the centers may work with trade associations as well as private businesses and that costs for the job training programs may be provided by an industry partnership; and
3. It clarifies that, in selecting awardees for the program, the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System shall consider various factors as they relate to the business or industry partnership.

Senate Amendment "B" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-288)

This amendment does the following.

1. It removes the interfund advance of funds for one day at the end of fiscal year 2015-16.
2. It strikes Part J of the majority committee amendment and instead indexes the Maine exclusion amount for decedents dying on or after January 1, 2016 to the federal exclusion amount. It also amends the section of the estate tax law that applies to the tax on resident estates to apply the tax rates to each \$3,000,000 increment above the yearly exclusion amount.
3. It increases the homestead property tax exemption by \$5,000 to \$15,000 for property tax years beginning on April 1, 2016 and by \$10,000 to \$20,000 for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2017 while increasing state reimbursement to 50% for the additional exemption amount for property tax years beginning April 1, 2016 and to 75% for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2017.
4. It provides that for fiscal years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 the amount transferred for state-municipal revenue sharing is 2% of revenue from the income tax, the sales tax and a portion of the service provider tax.

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5. It makes the following changes to the individual income tax:
 - a) Repeals the provision of law requiring the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services to provide for the assignment of income tax refunds on income tax returns to the Maine College Savings Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine;
 - b) Reduces the individual income tax rates and establishes new tax bracket amounts for tax years beginning after 2015 such that the proposed rate structure for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015 consists of 5.8%, 6.75% and 7.15% taxable income brackets;
 - c) Repeals the income subtraction modifications for long-term care premiums paid and for contributions of up to \$250 per beneficiary to 529 college tuition plans for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016;
 - d) Eliminates the jobs and investment tax credit, the credit for employer-assisted day care, the credit for employer-provided long-term care benefits, the high-technology investment tax credit, the credit for dependent health benefits, the quality child care investment credit and the credit for biofuel commercial production but retains the carry-forward of unused credit amounts for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015;
 - e) Eliminates the credit for contributions to family development account reserve funds, the retirement and disability credit and the forest management planning income tax credit and removes refundability of the Maine child care credit refundable for nonresident taxpayers;
 - f) Amends the law governing the cost-of-living adjustment of individual income tax rate brackets and the maximum itemized deduction amount and the benefit base amounts in the sales tax fairness credits in order to reflect amendments to the individual income tax rate schedules, enactment of the sales tax fairness credit and phase-out of the standard and itemized deduction deductions for individuals with income exceeding certain levels;
 - g) Phases out the value of the standard deduction amount or itemized deduction amount, whichever applies, for taxpayers whose Maine adjusted gross income exceeds \$70,000 for single individuals and married persons filing separate returns; \$105,000 for individuals filing as heads of households; and \$140,000 for individuals filing married joint returns or as a surviving spouse;
 - h) Provides an income tax exemption for all military retirement plan benefits;
 - i) Establishes, for tax years beginning after 2015, separate Maine standard deduction amounts that previously were equal to the federal standard deduction amounts;
 - j) Repeals the exception to the itemized deductions limitation applicable to charitable contributions that had applied to tax years beginning after December 31, 2015;
 - k) Enacts an income tax credit to provide sales tax relief for low-income and middle-income families by providing a base credit that is based on the number of persons claimed as dependents on an income tax return and phased out as family income increases; and
 - l) Makes the earned income credit refundable for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.
6. It makes the following changes to the sales tax laws:
 - a) Provides that the sales tax on prepared food and liquor continues at 8%, the sales tax on lodging continues at 8% until January 1, 2016 then increases to 9% and the sales tax rate on other tangible personal property and taxable services continues at 5.5% after June 30, 2015;
 - b) Expands the list of food products that are not exempt as grocery staples and are thus subject to sales tax; and
 - c) Provides an exemption from sales tax for certain nonprofit library collaboratives and veterans' support organizations.
7. It makes the following changes to the laws governing public assistance:
 - a) Sets the date on which child care assistance begins to the date of application if the applicant is eligible;
 - b) Eliminates the "gross income test" for working TANF recipients;
 - c) Increases the number of months eligible individuals may receive transitional transportation benefits from 12 months to 18 months; and
 - d) Authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services, beginning in fiscal year 2016-17, to use \$500,000 from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant to promote financial literacy and healthy savings habits of families with income less than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines by placing funds in family development accounts.

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8. It changes the reimbursement rates paid by the State for municipal general assistance to 70% of the direct costs incurred by a municipality or Indian tribe beginning with costs incurred on or after July 1, 2015.
9. It removes the state reimbursement for administrative costs of a municipality or Indian tribe and changes the reimbursement reporting to a monthly basis for all municipalities and Indian tribes.
10. It extends the service provider tax to basic cable and satellite television and radio and interstate and international telecommunication services sold to a business.
11. It enacts service provider tax exemptions for sales to certain nonprofit library collaboratives and certain veterans' support organizations.
12. It adds appropriations and allocations for:
 - a) The increase in the homestead property tax exemption amount;
 - b) The reduction of the waiting list for community-based services for MaineCare members with intellectual disabilities or autistic disorder and adults with brain injury;
 - c) Nursing home reimbursements; and
 - d) An increase from 12 to 18 in the number of months an individual may receive transitional transportation benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 267 does the following.

PART A makes appropriations and allocations of funds for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART B makes appropriations and allocations of funds for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C establishes the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year 2015-16, the state contribution and the annual target state share percentage and makes other changes related to the funding of K-12 education.

PART D repeals the requirement that the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Attorney General pursue federal funding to establish a cold case homicide unit and provision of law that makes establishment of a cold case homicide unit contingent upon availability of federal funding.

PART E makes changes to the timing of transfers from the General Fund undedicated revenue to the Maine Clean Election Fund in 2016 and 2017.

PART F amends the laws governing disclosures made by lobbyists.

PART G directs the Judicial Department to conduct or contract for architectural feasibility studies to improve court facilities in Oxford County, Waldo County and York County.

PART H reduces funding for debt service in fiscal year 2014-2015.

PART I reduces funding for debt service in fiscal year 2014-2015.

PART J increases the homestead property tax exemption by \$5,000 to \$15,000 for property tax years beginning on April 1, 2016 and by \$10,000 to \$20,000 for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2017 while increasing state reimbursement to 50% for the additional exemption amount for property tax years beginning April 1, 2016 and to 75% for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2017.

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PART K provides that for fiscal years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 the amount transferred for state-municipal revenue sharing is 2% of revenue from the income tax, the sales and use tax and a portion of the service provider tax.

PART L changes the distribution of available balances in the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund; changes the growth limitation factor in the laws governing limits on government spending; sets the biennial base year appropriation to the appropriation for the 2018-2019 biennium enacted for fiscal year 2016-17 as of December 1, 2016; eliminates all language dealing with the calculation of the state and local tax burden and how the growth limitation factor changes depending on how the state and local tax burden of this State compares to that of other states; and raises the limit on the balance in the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund from 12% of total General Fund revenues in the immediately preceding state fiscal year to 18%.

PART M authorizes new Maine Governmental Facilities Authority borrowing to provide funding for capital repairs and improvements to state facilities.

PART N reduces the amount of funding transferred from the real estate transfer tax to the Maine State Housing Authority in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART O continues authorization for each individual tax expenditure provided by statute.

PART P establishes an attrition rate of 3% for the 2016-2017 biennium for all judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies, except the District Attorneys Salaries program and directs the State Budget Officer to make certain considerations when developing budgeted attrition savings.

PART Q authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Central Fleet Management Division.

PART R authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing arrangements in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the State Police.

PART S continues the voluntary employee incentive program for state employees through the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART T requires the State Controller to transfer \$750,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services - Administration, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

PART U provides that the Director of the Division of Quality Assurance and Regulation and the Director of the Division of Animal and Plant Health, both within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, are no longer subject to appointment by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

PART V extends the requirement that the Commissioner of Corrections, or the commissioner's designee, assume the duties of the State Board of Corrections from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016. This Part also requires the Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee to distribute fiscal year 2015-16 payments to support county jail operations. This Part is superseded by Public Law 2015, chapter 335.

PART W transfers \$700,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 from the Dirigo Health Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

PART X clarifies the powers and duties of the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

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PART Y provides emergency rule-making authority to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services necessary to implement a rate increase for assigned counsel and contract counsel.

PART Z requires the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to appoint no fewer than 45 and no more than 50 Forest Ranger II positions, subject to the Civil Service Law. Additionally, the director is required to appoint no fewer than 17 forest rangers classified as follows: three Regional Rangers, eight District Rangers, one Forest Fire Prevention Specialist, one Ranger Pilot Supervisor and four Ranger Pilots. It also adds additional forest ranger duties. It also repeals two provisions of Public Law 1999, chapter 352 that require the Commissioner of Conservation to sell all bullet-proof vests, firearms and related equipment and that prohibit the commissioner from purchasing bullet-proof vests, firearms or related equipment without specific authorization by the Legislature.

PART AA requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with a third party to conduct a rate study of medication management services and outpatient services under Rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Section 65: Behavioral Health Services and all services in Section 28: Rehabilitative and Community Support Services for Children with Cognitive Impairments and Functional Limitations.

PART BB requires the unused balance of Part A appropriations to the Drug Enforcement Agency program within the Department of Public Safety for processing crime scenes involving the seizure of methamphetamine laboratories and Part A All Other appropriations to the Remediation and Waste Management program within the Department of Environmental Protection not used for cleanup of illegal drug operations or natural gas contamination be transferred to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30th of each year of the biennium.

PART CC limits the exemption from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy training standards and law enforcement agency policy requirements under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, chapter 341 to agents or representatives of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry who do not carry a firearm.

PART DD makes the following changes to the individual income tax: 1) repeals the provision of law requiring the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services to provide for the assignment of income tax refunds on income tax returns to the Maine College Savings Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine; 2) reduces the individual income tax rates and establishes new tax bracket amounts for tax years beginning after 2015 such that the proposed rate structure for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015 consists of 5.8%, 6.75% and 7.15% taxable income brackets; 3) repeals the income subtraction modifications for long-term care premiums paid and for contributions of up to \$250 per beneficiary to 529 college tuition plans for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016; 4) eliminates the jobs and investment tax credit, the credit for employer-assisted day care, the credit for employer-provided long-term care benefits, the high-technology investment tax credit, the credit for dependent health benefits, the quality child care investment credit and the credit for biofuel commercial production but retains the carry-forward of unused credit amounts for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 5) eliminates the credit for contributions to family development account reserve funds, the retirement and disability credit and the forest management planning income tax credit and removes refundability of the Maine child care credit refundable for nonresident taxpayers; 6) amends the law governing the cost-of-living adjustment of individual income tax rate brackets and the maximum itemized deduction amount and the benefit base amounts in the sales tax fairness credits in order to reflect amendments to the individual income tax rate schedules, enactment of the sales tax fairness credit and phase-out of the standard and itemized deduction deductions for individuals with income exceeding certain levels; 7) phases out the value of the standard deduction amount or itemized deduction amount, whichever applies, for taxpayers whose Maine adjusted gross income exceeds \$70,000 for single individuals and married persons filing separate returns; \$105,000 for individuals filing as heads of households; and \$140,000 for individuals filing married joint returns or as a surviving spouse; 8) provides an income tax exemption for all military retirement plan benefits; 9) establishes, for tax years beginning after 2015, separate Maine standard deduction amounts that previously were equal to the federal standard deduction amounts; 10) repeals the exception to the itemized deductions limitation applicable to charitable contributions that had

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applied to tax years beginning after December 31, 2015; 11) enacts an income tax credit to provide sales tax relief for low-income and middle-income families by providing a base credit that is based on the number of persons claimed as dependents on an income tax return and phased out as family income increases; and 12) makes the earned income credit refundable for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

Part DD is further amended by LD 1452, Public Law 2015, chapter 328.

PART EE authorizes a one-time transfer of all funds in excess of \$500,000 from unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to fund the overhaul of helicopters owned by the State.

PART FF limits timber harvesting on public reserved lands and nonreserved public lands to an average of 160,000 cords per year over any three-year period. It allows the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by rule, based on an independent timber inventory conducted after July 1, 2015, to establish a different sustainable harvest level. The rules are major substantive rules and must be reviewed by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public reserved and nonreserved lands matters.

PART GG transfers the sexual assault forensic examiner training program from the Department of the Attorney General to the Department of Health and Human Services.

PART HH authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer Personal Services, All Other and Capital Expenditures funding between accounts within the same fund for the purpose of paying departmental overtime expenses for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART II provides that if an applicant for general assistance under Title 22, chapter 1161 has been released from a correctional facility within 45 days of application, the municipality of responsibility for the first 12 months of benefits is the municipality that was on record as the residence of the applicant when the applicant was committed to the correctional facility. It requires that a responsible municipality accept applications by telephone as long as the call is being made from a municipal office and the written application is contemporaneously faxed or sent electronically to the municipality of responsibility.

PART JJ requires the Commissioner of Corrections to review the current organizational structure of the Department of Corrections to improve organizational efficiency and authorizes the State Budget Officer to transfer positions and available balances based on the review by financial order and establishes reporting requirements for certain transfers. The ability to make these transfers as an adjustment to position count or appropriations is limited to the period of July 1st to December 1st of each fiscal year in the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART KK authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer from the All Other line category funds by financial order between accounts within the same fund for the purposes of paying food, heating and utility expenses for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART LL provides temporary funding for the Administration - Maine Emergency Management Agency program within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management until federal funding becomes available.

PART MM lapses \$1,537,761 in each fiscal year of the biennium to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund that is not anticipated to be needed by the Maine Technology Institute in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART NN removes the Chief Academic Officer and Director, Special Services Team positions from the list of major policy-influencing positions within the Department of Education and eliminates the Deputy Chief of Staff position and creates a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Workforce Coordinator position in the list of the Commissioner of Education's appointments within the department.

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PART OO authorizes the Department of Education to purchase portable computer devices for students and educators in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

PART PP transfers \$750,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education.

PART QQ renames the PK-20, Adult Education and Federal Programs Team program within the Department of Education the Learning Systems Team program.

PART RR aligns and standardizes the statutory range of licensing fees for adult and children's residential drug treatment centers, children's residential care facilities and mental health services facilities with the exact fees to be established by rule by the Department of Health and Human Services. This Part also standardizes the terms of these licenses at two years.

PART SS creates a stakeholder group, including representatives of patients and outpatient methadone treatment providers, to review criteria for receiving treatment, prior approvals and treatment service options for patients seeking methadone treatment services and establishes reporting requirements.

PART TT establishes a liquid asset test in eligibility determinations for the elderly low cost drug program.

PART UU gives the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to adopt emergency rules to implement any provisions of this Act over which it has specific authority that has not been addressed by some other Part of the Act.

PART VV allows remaining balances at the end of each fiscal year in the Consumer-directed Services program and the Bridging Rental Assistance Program, General Fund accounts in the Department of Health and Human Services to be carried forward for use by those programs in the next fiscal year.

PART WW establishes the Bridging Rental Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services. The program provides up to 24 months of housing assistance to persons with mental illness transitioning to Section 8 housing assistance or an alternative housing placement.

PART XX authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer funds appropriated for state supplemental income for blind, disabled and elderly people authorized under Title 22, sections 3271 and 3274 by financial order to the Department of Health and Human Services, Departmentwide program.

PART YY directs the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the cities of Lewiston and Auburn and the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, to conduct a study and complete a plan for the implementation of passenger rail service between the cities of Lewiston and Auburn and the Amtrak Downeaster service. This Part also provides for a transfer \$150,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Multimodal - Passenger Rail program, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Transportation and requires the cities of Lewiston and Auburn to remit \$50,000 each to the State to fund the study.

PART ZZ authorizes the transfer of available Personal Services or All Other balances from the Department of Health and Human Services, Developmental Services - Community program account to the Crisis Outreach Program account for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART AAA requires the Department of Health and Human Services to request a waiver to include as a reimbursable service under MaineCare home-delivered meals to certain individuals qualified for MaineCare benefits.

PART BBB authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer available balances of

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appropriations between the MaineCare General Fund accounts for the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART CCC implements certain recommendations of the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine.

PART DDD authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer family support services funds in the Developmental Services - Community program to the Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office program and the Long Term Care - Office of Aging and Disability Services program by financial order.

PART EEE authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer appropriations from the Nursing Facilities program to the home-based care program.

PART FFF authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer appropriations within the Office of Child and Family Services related to the cost of administering the child welfare program.

PART GGG authorizes a school board to designate an existing school or establish a new school to be a community school that participates with community partners to provide various educational and social services to students, families and community members and provides the steps a school board must complete in order to establish a new community school. This Part also authorizes the Department of Education to provide funding to support the implementation of three community schools.

PART HHH changes the salary of one deputy commissioner in the Department of Health and Human Services from range 38 to range 90.

PART III authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer by financial order any available appropriations, including those in Personal Services, between MaineCare accounts and to transfer by financial order available Personal Services balances in the Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center program, the Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center program and the Riverview Psychiatric Center program in order to provide funds for an electronic medical records system.

PART JJJ provides for the allocation of funding among Maine's federally qualified health centers to support access to primary medical, behavioral health and dental services for residents in rural and underserved communities.

PART KKK transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft in fiscal year 2015-16.

PART LLL transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2015-16 and one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2016-17.

PART MMM amends language pertaining to the Lifetime License Fund to allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to request that the Treasurer of State transfer less than 5% of the Lifetime License Fund's principal balance on an annual basis.

PART NNN amends the Fiscal Stability Program established to support the fish and wildlife conservation programs of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife so that it begins in the 2018-2019 biennium.

PART OOO requires the Department of Education to develop and support local food training programs for public school food service personnel and facilitate the use of local food hubs to expand the use of local foods in schools.

PART PPP ties the mileage rate paid to jurors to the rate paid by the State to state employees who use their vehicles for state business beginning July 1, 2016. It also increases the daily rate paid to jurors from \$10 per day to \$15 per

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day.

PART QQQ makes changes to the educational opportunity tax credit. Part QQQ was further amended by LD 1452, Public Law 2015, chapter 328.

PART RRR authorizes a range change from salary range 88 to salary range 90 for the Securities Administrator within the Office of Securities in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

PART SSS amends the law to require that fees for criminal history record checks for school employees be deposited in an Other Special Revenue account of the Department of Public Safety rather than the Department of Education and transfers the cash balance of the Criminal History Record Check Fund from the Department of Education to the Department of Public Safety.

PART TTT authorizes the Department of the Secretary of State to carry Personal Services and All Other funding in the Administration - Archives program and transfer balances to the All Other line category in the same program.

PART UUU requires the State Controller to transfer \$900,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$750,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Callahan Mine Site Restoration program, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Transportation.

PART VVV removes the authority of the Commissioner of Corrections to appoint a media and public information officer.

PART WWW continues through August 1, 2015 limited-period positions that are set to expire during June 2015.

PART XXX requires the State Controller to transfer \$100,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-2017 biennium from the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund program, Bureau of Revenue Services Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the General Fund unappropriated surplus.

PART YYY changes the laws regarding the Maine Library of Geographic Information to specify that "state funds" includes only bond revenues and General Fund money and the laws regarding geospatial data accounts to clarify that only General Fund appropriations and bond proceeds are subject to a one-to-one match. Funds in those accounts from other sources do not require a match.

PART ZZZ provides that balances remaining in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Information Services program, General Fund account must be carried forward in the 2016-2017 biennium.

PART AAAA establishes the Put ME to Work Program in the Maine Quality Centers; directs the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System to adopt necessary policies and procedures for the Maine Quality Centers; requires program participants to use existing financial aid resources available through their sponsoring postsecondary education institution before using program resources; and specifies certain wage parameters for participating employers. This Part is amended by Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A".

PART BBBB exempts from the motor vehicle excise tax adaptive equipment installed on a motor vehicle owned by a carrier engaged in furnishing passenger service for hire. It also reduces by half the motor vehicle registration fee of a passenger vehicle used for hire that is equipped with adaptive equipment to make that vehicle operable or accessible by a person with a disability.

PART CCCC provides that the average annual rate of earnable compensation of a member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System during the three years of creditable service as an employee in Maine, not necessarily consecutive, in which the member's annual rate of earnable compensation is highest must be determined as if the member had not been provided days off without pay or with reduced pay during fiscal year 2012-13 if the member

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elects to make a payment equal to the employee contribution that member would have made on compensation that would have been paid to that member on the days off without pay or at reduced pay.

PART DDDD authorizes the State Budget Officer to transfer up to \$6,500,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 and in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 from the Salary Plan program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to programs within the Department of Corrections to implement wage adjustments to aid in the recruitment and retention of employees and to provide parity between state correctional employees and county or regional jail employees who perform similar direct care or supervision of prisoners.

PART EEEE requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget to review vacant positions and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs with recommendations on eliminating vacant positions. The report must also be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation if the report includes positions funded by the Highway Fund or by internal service funds, enterprise funds or Other Special Revenue Funds accounts of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Safety or the Department of the Secretary of State.

PART FFFF requires the Attorney General and the eight district attorneys to jointly develop a proposed policy on the distribution of assistant district attorney positions across all prosecutorial districts that is equitable to each district. The Attorney General and the district attorneys must submit a written report that contains the proposed policy, a description of the process used to develop the proposed policy and any other information the Attorney General and the district attorneys believe is relevant. The Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

PART GGGG establishes the Commission To Study the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund.

PART HHHH renames the Land and Water Quality program the Water Quality program and establishes the Land Resources program within the Department of Environmental Protection.

PART IIII changes the position of Director of the Bureau of Land and Water Quality to Director of the Bureau of Water Quality and adds the position of Director of the Bureau of Land Resources.

PART JJJJ continues the authorization for the Maine Health Data Organization to transfer available Personal Services balances up to a specified amount to All Other in the Maine Health Data Organization, Other Special Revenue Funds account through the 2016-2017 biennium, the amount for the 2016-2017 biennium being raised to up to \$286,000, and clarifies that the transfer is authorized in each fiscal year of the biennium and is done by financial order.

PART KKKK provides an exemption from sales tax to certain greenhouse facilities for 95% of the sale price of fuel used by those greenhouse facilities. The exemption is repealed December 31, 2019.

PART LLLL amends the definition of "lead poisoning" in the Lead Poisoning Control Act, making the State's standard for lead exposure in children consistent with the federal standard. It also grants the Department of Health and Human Services authority to impose penalties for violations of the Lead Poisoning Control Act and the rules adopted pursuant to that Act.

PART MMMM transfers \$200,000 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine to the Maine State Housing Authority and specifies that the funds must be used to provide loans and grants to low-income homeowners for repairs to remediate arsenic in drinking water.

PART NNNN provides that a portion of special revenues received by the Department of Environmental Protection related to uncontrolled hazardous substance sites must be transferred to the Board of Environmental Protection

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Fund.

PART OOOO makes the following changes to the sales tax laws: 1) provides that the sales tax on prepared food and liquor continues at 8%, the sales tax on lodging continues at 8% until January 1, 2016 then increases to 9% and the sales tax rate on other tangible personal property and taxable services continues at 5.5% after June 30, 2015; 2) expands the list of food products that are not exempt as grocery staples and are thus subject to sales tax; and 3) provides an exemption from sales tax for certain nonprofit library collaboratives and veterans' support organizations.

PART PPPP requires the Legislative Council to solicit bids for the equipment needed for the Maine Public Broadcasting Network to operate the Maine Capitol Connection channel.

PART QQQQ establishes a working group to evaluate the extent to which extremely low-income households, including families, persons with disabilities and elderly persons, lack access to safe and affordable housing and the burden that this inadequacy creates for individuals and communities and authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development to report out a bill to implement the legislation.

PART RRRR makes the following changes to the laws governing public assistance: 1) sets the date on which child care assistance begins to the date of application if the applicant is eligible; 2) eliminates the "gross income test" for working TANF recipients; 3) increases the number of months eligible individuals may receive transitional transportation benefits from 12 months to 18 months; and 4) authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services, beginning in fiscal year 2016-17, to use \$500,000 from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant to promote financial literacy and healthy savings habits of families with income less than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines by placing funds in family development accounts.

PART SSSS changes the reimbursement rates paid by the State for municipal general assistance to 70% of the direct costs incurred by a municipality or Indian tribe beginning with costs incurred on or after July 1, 2015. It also removes the state reimbursement for administrative costs of a municipality or Indian tribe and changes the reimbursement reporting to a monthly basis for all municipalities and Indian tribes.

PART TTTT Extends the service provider tax to basic cable and satellite television and radio and interstate and international telecommunication services sold to a business. It also enacts service provider tax exemptions for sales to certain nonprofit library collaboratives and veterans' support organizations.

PART UUUU adds appropriations and allocations for: 1) the increase in the homestead property tax exemption amount; 2) the reduction of the waiting list for community-based services for MaineCare members with intellectual disabilities or autistic disorder and adults with brain injury; 3) nursing home reimbursements; and 4) an increase from 12 to 18 in the number of months an individual may receive transitional transportation benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Public Law 2013, chapter 267 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 30, 2015.

LD 1020 An Act To Make Certain Necessary Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

ROTUNDO

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to make certain necessary supplemental appropriations and allocations necessary for the proper operation of State Government.