

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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127TH LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

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

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is October 15, 2015. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 1032 An Act To Implement the Combination Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Retirement Plan Described in a Report Submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs in March 2012 CARRIED OVER

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

This bill establishes the Adjustable Pension Plan Program, a combined defined benefit and defined contribution retirement plan, to replace the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program for state employees and teachers hired on or after July 1, 2017. Under the bill, all state employees and teachers hired on or after July 1, 2017 are covered by the United States Social Security Act, participate in the federal social security system and become members of the Adjustable Pension Plan Program as a condition of their employment. This bill also directs the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to review the laws governing the existing retirement program and develop proposed legislation necessary to implement the Adjustable Pension Plan Program in accordance with the plan document developed by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and submitted in March 2012 to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs pursuant to Public Law 2011, chapter 380, Part U, section 2.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 1053 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Stimulate Investment in Innovation by Maine Businesses To Produce Nationally and Globally Competitive Products and Services CARRIED OVER

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to provide funds for investment in research, development and commercialization in the State's seven targeted technology areas to be used for infrastructure, equipment and technology upgrades that enable organizations to gain and hold market share and to expand employment or preserve jobs, to be awarded through a competitive process to Maine-based public and private entities, leveraging other funds in a one-to-one ratio.

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 1069 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade Municipal Culverts at Stream Crossings CARRIED OVER

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, will be used for a competitive grant program that matches local funding for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings in order to improve fish and wildlife habitat and increase community safety.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

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

LD 1184 An Act To Provide Funds to the Town of Millinocket Due to the Loss in Valuation of the Katahdin Paper Company Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY DILL	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill provides a one-time appropriation in fiscal year 2015-16 of \$216,000 to the Town of Millinocket for the loss of taxable value suffered with the sale of the Katahdin Paper Company paper mill to GNP West, Inc.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-486)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 1205 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support the Independence of Maine's Seniors PUBLIC 337

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EVES BURNS	OTP-AM ONTP	H-503 S-340 BURNS

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$65,000,000, will be used to assist in the provision of energy-efficient affordable homes to low-income Maine seniors. The bulk of the bond proceeds will be used to construct new homes for seniors and to adaptively reuse existing structures to provide homes for seniors. At least one project will be located in each of Maine's 16 counties. Preference will be given to home locations that have access to health care services, other essential goods and services and public transportation. A portion of the bond proceeds will provide for home repair and weatherization of the existing homes of low-income seniors. The bond proceeds will leverage an estimated \$100,000,000 in private and other funds.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-503)

This amendment reduces the total bond amount to \$15,000,000 by reducing the amount for construction of new homes for seniors to \$14,500,000 from \$64,000,000 and the amount for home repair and weatherization from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000. The amount of private and other funds that this bond will leverage is reduced to \$22,600,000 from \$100,000,000. The amendment also removes the requirement that at least one project must be located in each county and the requirement that preference must be given to homes in locations that have access to public transportation.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-340)

This amendment requires that at least four homes must be located in counties having populations under 100,000.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 337 provides for a bond issue in the amount of \$15,000,000 to be used to assist in the provision of energy-efficient affordable homes to low-income Maine seniors. The funds will be used as follows: \$14,500,000 will be used to construct new homes for seniors and to adaptively reuse existing structures to provide homes for seniors and \$500,000 will be used for home repair and weatherization. At least one project will be