

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

May 2016

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND 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 Second 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 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 July 29, 2016. 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 1334 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Repair and Renovate the Former Cutler Naval Base in Washington County To Facilitate Development and Stimulate the Economy ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BURNS D TUELL W	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,525,000, will be used to repair and renovate buildings at the former Cutler naval base in Washington County in order to facilitate development and stimulate the economy.

LD 1336 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Maine's Community Colleges ONTP

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$24,000,000, will be used to upgrade and renovate classrooms, laboratories, equipment and facilities at Maine's seven community colleges in order to strengthen educational programming, increase energy efficiency and expand capacity to serve more students.

LD 1341 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Improve Maine's Housing Stock and Reduce Heating Costs and Oil Consumption ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HILL D DION M	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$30,000,000, will be used to provide \$23,000,000 in funds to leverage private funds on at least a 2-to-1 basis to modernize the State's market rate housing stock through improvements in weatherization and energy efficiency of building envelopes and heating equipment and to provide \$7,000,000 in funds to rehabilitate and modernize the State's low-income housing stock with up to 4 housing units through improvements in weatherization and energy efficiency of building envelopes and heating equipment.

LD 1454 Resolve, Reauthorizing the Balance of the 2009 Bond Issue for Land Conservation Projects RESOLVE 55 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE K		H-505 MCCABE J H-508 GROHMAN M

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

This resolve was not referred to committee.

This resolve extends to June 30, 2016 the period for issuing the balance of bond issues for land conservation projects.

House Amendment "A" (H-505)

This amendment replaces the resolve and instead requires the Governor and the Land for Maine's Future Board to take the proper and necessary steps to issue bonds for Land for Maine's Future projects that were authorized by the voters in 2010 but have not yet been issued.

House Amendment "B" To House Amendment "A" (H-508)

This amendment strikes the language that replaces the resolve with language requiring the Governor to issue bonds for the Land for Maine's Future projects, and instead extends by five years the period for issuing the balance of bonds for land conservation purposes that were authorized by voters at a statewide election held in November 2010. This amendment also adds an emergency preamble and clause.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 55 extends by five years the period for issuing the balance of bonds for land conservation purposes that were authorized by voters at a statewide election held in November 2010.
Resolve 2015, chapter 55 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective February 3, 2016.

LD 1463 An Act To Allow Members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program To Reapply for Disability Retirement Benefits after Denial and To Direct the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System To Explore the Feasibility of Offering Long-term Disability Insurance Coverage

PUBLIC 392

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FOLEY R COLLINS R	OTP-AM	H-517

This bill provides that a denial of a disability retirement benefit application to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System does not bar the filing and approval of a subsequent application for the same or different medical conditions if the applicant has returned to service with an employer covered under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. This bill authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System, beginning January 5, 2017, to procure and offer long-term disability insurance to the retirement system's members and nonmembers who participate in the retirement system defined contribution plan. Persons who elect this coverage or their employers are responsible for premiums and other 3rd-party costs. This bill also directs the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to study how it would procure and offer long-term disability insurance and to report the results of its study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, which is authorized to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-517)

This amendment strikes the provisions in the bill that provide that a denial of a disability retirement benefit application to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System does not bar the filing and approval of a subsequent application for different medical conditions if the applicant has returned to service with an employer covered under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. This amendment also strikes the provisions of the bill that authorize the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System, beginning January 5, 2017, to