

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
127<sup>TH</sup> 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

127<sup>TH</sup> 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 127<sup>th</sup> 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 127<sup>th</sup> 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*

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

*Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

procure and offer long-term disability insurance to the retirement system's members and nonmembers who participate in the retirement system's defined contribution plan.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 392 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 retirement matters, which is authorized to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

**LD 1486      Resolve, To Reauthorize the Issuance of Certain Bonds for Land Conservation Projects      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT M CUSHING A	ONTP	

This resolve extends for two years the period for issuance of bonds authorized by the voters in November 2010 for the Land for Maine's Future Board.

See LD 1454.

**LD 1512      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Equipment for Career and Technical Education Centers      Died On Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FECTEAU R LANGLEY B	OTP-AM ONTP	

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, will be used to provide funds to purchase equipment for and make capital improvements to career and technical education centers for high school students.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-676)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. This amendment reduces the bond issue amount to \$10,000,000 from \$25,000,000. This amendment also provides for funds to be transferred to the Office of the Secretary of State if the number or length of the referendum questions to be submitted to the voters at the general election in November 2016 requires the Secretary of State to produce and distribute more than one ballot to accommodate those questions.

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 1515      An Act To Update the Laws Governing the Maine Public Employees Retirement System as They Relate to Wartime Veterans      ONTP**

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

This bill updates the definition of "federally recognized period of conflict" to include service during operations in Lebanon, August 21, 1982 to February 26, 1984; operations in Grenada, October 25, 1983 to November 2, 1983; the