

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2017

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> 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 128<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 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 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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 177      An Act To Remove the Age Penalty for State Retirees Working at State      CARRIED OVER**  
**Correctional Institutions That Are Closing**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>  | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ALLEY R<br>MAKER J |                         |                           |

This bill allows employees at state correctional facilities that close who have not reached their normal retirement age to retire and receive their full retirement benefit if certain conditions are met and funding is appropriated for the additional actuarial costs that result from the elimination of a reduction for retirement prior to normal retirement age.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to provide certification of the pending closure of a state correctional facility to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. The bill requires the retirement system to calculate the amount of funding necessary to pay for the actuarial costs and report that information to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over retirement matters. The bill provides that the joint standing committee may report out legislation appropriating funds for the costs set forth in the report.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1138.

**LD 178      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Jobs,      CARRIED OVER**  
**Improve Road Infrastructure and Protect Water Resources**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BLACK R<br>DILL J |                         |                           |

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used to provide funding for cost sharing of at least 50% on projects that correct downstream pollution issues and provide contractor jobs and public safety improvements through improved storm water management and improved water quality.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1138.

**LD 247      An Act To Amend the Retirement Laws Pertaining to Participating      CARRIED OVER**  
**Local Districts**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MADIGAN J         |                         |                           |

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to implement changes to the Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System; the changes would be based on recommendations of the Participating Local District Advisory Committee. The committee, which represents both employee and employer interests, is authorized by statute to provide proposals for changes to the plan. Pursuant to that authority, the committee is reviewing possible plan adjustments to improve future funding levels and is expected to issue its recommendations prior to the end of the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

***Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs***

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1138.

**LD 292      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Maine's Rail Infrastructure and Expand Passenger Rail Service      CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>   | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SHEATS B<br>LIBBY N |                         |                           |

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to repair and reconstruct state-owned railroad lines, improve infrastructure on a railway crossing in the Town of Yarmouth and improve the railroad line between the cities of Lewiston and Auburn and the City of Portland.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1138.

**LD 302      An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017      PUBLIC 2 EMERGENCY**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>     | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HAMPER J<br>GATTINE D | OTP-AM                  | S-2                       |

This bill does the following.

PART A makes appropriations and allocations.

PART B makes appropriations and allocations to provide funding for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C continues limited-period positions set to expire in June 2017 through August 1, 2017.

PART D transfers \$35,000,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.

PART E authorizes the State Controller to carry any unexpended All Other balances of as of June 30, 2017, in the All Other line category of the \$300,000 one-time General Fund appropriation in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services program for the updating of econometric database information used for revenue projections into the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

PART F removes the requirement that unencumbered balances in a dedicated account within the Office of Chief Medical Examiner in excess of \$500 be transferred to the General Fund.

PART G authorizes the balance remaining in the Fund for Women Veterans account in the Veterans Services program within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to be used for software for veterans services.

PART H allows unexpended balances from funds transferred to the Lifetime License Fund in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by the Treasurer of State to be carried forward into the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.