

# 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*

environmental resources.

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

**LD 319      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Riverfront Community Development      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DESCHAMBAULT S FECTEAU R		

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, will be used to fund a grant program to invest in projects along the State's rivers that contribute to economic, environmental and community development and revitalization, promote economic activity, protect the environment and enhance quality of life for Maine people.

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

**LD 345      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade and Replace Infrastructure of the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation      CARRIED OVER**

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$6,100,000, will be used to replace existing infrastructure systems of the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation that carry the emergency alert system.

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

**LD 376      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for a New Engineering Design and Education Center at the University of Maine      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DIAMOND B KORNFIELD T		

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$80,000,000, will be used for the construction of an engineering design and education center at the University of Maine in Orono.

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

**LD 382      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ R GROHMAN M	ONTP	

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing the issuance of bonds:

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

1. It requires the Governor to issue a general obligation bond that has been ratified by the legal voters of the State unless one of five specific conditions exists, and it requires the Governor to provide certain information upon delaying or forgoing issuance of a bond;
2. It eliminates the requirement that registered bonds bear the facsimile signature of the Governor; and
3. It provides that the bill applies to all general obligation bonds ratified by the voters but as yet unissued as well as all future general obligation bonds ratified by the voters.

**LD 390      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, 2018 and June 30, 2019**

**PUBLIC 284  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GATTINE D	OTP-AM	H-475
HAMPER J	OTP-AM	H-558
	OTP-AM	
	ONTP	

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

This bill as emergency legislation proposes to make unified appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of State Government, General Fund and other funds and change certain provisions of the law necessary to the proper operations of State Government for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019, as submitted by the Governor pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5. The summary below does not included changes or additions proposed by the Governor’s “Change Package.”

PART A makes appropriations and allocations of funds for the 2018-2019 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 2017-18, the state contribution and the annual target for the state share percentage and makes other statutory changes related to primary and secondary education.

PART D makes changes to personal and corporate income taxes.

PART E makes changes to sales and lodging taxes.

PART F eliminates the Maine estate tax for decedents dying on or after December 31, 2017.

PART G makes changes to the homestead property tax exemption.

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

PART I phases out the business equipment tax reimbursement, or BETR, program and transitions property eligible for the BETR into the business equipment tax exemption, or BETE, program.

PART J eliminates the Board of Tax Appeals.