

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH 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

128TH 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 128th 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 128th 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.

LD 409

An Act To Amend the Laws Pertaining to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

PUBLIC 88

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HAMPER J	OTP-AM	S-99

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing the Maine Public Employees Retirement System:

1. It replaces the term "physician" with "medical provider" and defines "medical provider" to include physicians and clinical psychologists, which permits clinical psychologists to be included in the composition of the medical board and for other medical consultations;
2. It clarifies that the board member who represents participating local districts may be either an active or retired member;
3. It clarifies the basis on which disability benefits for members of the Legislative Retirement Program are determined;
4. It clarifies that any property owned by the retirement system is tax exempt;
5. It gives the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public employee retirement matters the authority to report out legislation as recommended by the board of trustees to improve the retirement system;
6. It replaces obsolete language regarding the retirement system budgeting process;
7. It corrects a reference to the legislative jurisdiction that pertains to matters relating to the retirement system;
8. It clarifies the treatment of retirement system assets;
9. It clarifies the disposition of funds appropriated to subsidize the purchase of military service credit for specific members who subsequently decline to purchase service credit or are able to purchase service credit without subsidy;
10. It changes the manner in which disability retirement benefits are calculated for less than full-time members;
11. It clarifies that assets of the group life insurance program may only be used for benefits for participants of employers for which the assets are attributable; and
12. It removes obsolete language.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-99)

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It further clarifies the purposes for which the assets of the group life insurance program may not be used.
2. It changes the board meeting requirements.
3. It updates references to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements that apply to postemployment benefits.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

4. It removes the provisions in the bill that make changes to how disability retirement benefits are calculated for part-time or seasonal employees.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 88 makes the following changes to the laws governing the Maine Public Employees Retirement System:

1. It replaces the term "physician" with "medical provider" and defines "medical provider" to include physicians and clinical psychologists, which permits clinical psychologists to be included in the composition of the medical board and for other medical consultations;
2. It clarifies that the board member who represents participating local districts may be either an active or retired member;
3. It changes the board meeting requirements to allow board meetings to be held as needed;
4. It clarifies the basis on which disability benefits for members of the Legislative Retirement Program are determined;
5. It clarifies that any property owned by the retirement system is tax exempt;
6. It gives the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public employee retirement matters the authority to report out legislation as recommended by the board of trustees to improve the retirement system;
7. It replaces obsolete language regarding the retirement system budgeting process;
8. It corrects a reference to the legislative jurisdiction that pertains to matters relating to the retirement system;
9. It clarifies the treatment of retirement system assets;
10. It clarifies the disposition of funds appropriated to subsidize the purchase of military service credit for specific members who subsequently decline to purchase service credit or are able to purchase service credit without subsidy;
11. It clarifies that assets of the group life insurance program may only be used for benefits for participants of employers for which the assets are attributable;
12. It updates references to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements that apply to postemployment benefits; and
13. It removes obsolete language.

**LD 416 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Strengthen Maine's
Groundfish Permit Bank**

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KUMIEGA W MIRAMANT D		

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used to purchase federal northeast multispecies groundfish permits to enable Maine fishing vessels to land their catch in Maine. The Department of Marine Resources is directed to retain revenue from leasing the quota of permits to cover the cost of the permit