

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

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

October 2018

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STATE OF MAINE

128TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions 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 dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128th Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. 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 467 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Address Changes in Sea Level Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M MIRAMANT D		

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature to the Second Regular Session by joint order H.P. 1138. This bill was again carried over, still in committee, from the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature to the next special session of the 128th Legislature by joint order S.P. 748.

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used to support improvements to sea level prediction models by providing more detailed mapping of coastal zones and monitoring sea level changes in order to mitigate the impact of and help prepare for rising sea levels.

LD 520 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Increase Rural Maine's Access to Broadband Internet Service Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S MAKER J		

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature to the Second Regular Session by joint order H.P. 1138. This bill was again carried over, still in committee, from the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature to the next special session of the 128th Legislature by joint order S.P. 748.

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$100,000,000, will be used for the provision of broadband Internet service in unserved and underserved areas through ConnectME Authority or successor organization partnerships with private, municipal and nongovernmental service providers.

LD 521 An Act To Align the Criteria Used by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System in Determining Veterans' Disability Claims with the Criteria Used by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs PUBLIC 384

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S CARSON B	OTP-AM ONTP	H-688

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature by joint order H.P. 1138.

This bill provides that a veteran who is a member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and who has been awarded a disability pension under 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 3.3 (2003) for a service-connected disability is qualified for disability retirement benefits under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 423, article 3. The provisions of the bill apply to all applications for disability retirement benefits filed on or after January 1, 2018.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Committee Amendment "A" (H-688)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and replaces the bill. The amendment provides that a veteran who is a member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and who has been awarded disability compensation by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for a service-connected disability based on a determination of individual unemployability is presumed to be disabled under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 17921, subsection 1 and section 18521, subsection 1. This presumption may be rebutted only by evidence not considered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The provisions of the amendment apply to any application for a disability retirement benefit filed on or after October 1, 2018.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 384 provides that a veteran who is a member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and who has been awarded disability compensation by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for a service-connected disability based on a determination of individual unemployability is presumed to be disabled under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 17921, subsection 1 and section 18521, subsection 1. This presumption may be rebutted only by evidence not considered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The provisions of this law apply to any application for a disability retirement benefit filed on or after October 1, 2018.

LD 546 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Biological Research in Maine Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T GIDEON S		

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature to the Second Regular Session by joint order H.P. 1138. This bill was again carried over, still in committee, from the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature to the next special session of the 128th Legislature by joint order S.P. 748.

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used to provide funds for the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory through the Maine Technology Institute to expand infrastructure and stimulate biotechnology job growth and economic activity.

LD 590 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Maine's Rail Infrastructure Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T MARTIN J		

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature to the Second Regular Session by joint order H.P. 1138. This bill was again carried over, still in committee, from the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature to the next special session of the 128th Legislature by joint order S.P. 748.

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used for investments in railroad infrastructure to expand passenger rail service, with a priority for railroad track corridors that could support passenger and freight intermodal operations and enhance the movement of agricultural products.