

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**

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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.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 638 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Transportation Projects CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCLEAN A		

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used for reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities or equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, aviation, freight and passenger railroads, transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, matching an estimated \$55,000,000 in federal and other funds.

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

LD 650 An Act To Clarify and Protect Certain Public Service Retirement Benefits CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOODSOME D MARTIN D		

This bill changes the contractual commitment to maintain state-protected benefits regarding cost-of-living adjustments for retired state employees and teachers by specifying that it constitutes a solemn contractual commitment of the State that is protected under the Constitution of Maine and the United States Constitution.

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

LD 675 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Food Processing Infrastructure in Targeted Areas of the State CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HICKMAN C		

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$20,000,000, will be used for food processing infrastructure in targeted areas of the State.

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

LD 723 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Reduce Volatility in State Pension Funding Requirements Caused by the Financial Markets CON RES 1

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ R GATTINE D	OTP-AM	S-148

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to reduce volatility in state pension funding requirements caused by the financial markets by increasing the length of time over which experience losses are

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

amortized from 10 years to 20 years.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-148)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Constitutional Resolution 2017, chapter 1 proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to reduce volatility in state pension funding requirements caused by the financial markets by increasing the length of time over which experience losses are amortized from 10 years to 20 years.

LD 726 An Act To Restore Full Cost-of-living Increases for All Maine State Retirees Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ESPLING E	OTP-AM ONTP	H-250

This bill removes the limitation, put in place in 2011, to the cost-of-living increase for persons receiving state retirement benefits that applies the increase only to the first \$20,000 of retirement benefits. This bill returns application of the cost-of-living increase to the full benefit.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-250)

This amendment provides funding to fund the costs of removing the limit on the cost-of-living increase for state retirement benefits.

LD 735 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support the Independence of Maine's Seniors CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLK A HERBIG E		

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to assist in the provision of energy-efficient affordable multifamily housing to low-income Maine seniors. Forty million dollars of the bond proceeds will be used to construct new multifamily housing for seniors and to adaptively reuse existing structures to provide multifamily housing for seniors. At least one housing facility will be located in each of Maine's 16 counties. Preference will be given to housing locations that have access to health care services and other essential goods and services. Five million dollars will be used to rehabilitate existing affordable senior housing facilities. Five million dollars will provide for home repair and weatherization of the existing homes of low-income seniors. The bond proceeds will leverage an estimated \$75,000,000 in private and other funds.

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

LD 743 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote and Improve the Intermodal Transportation System in Maine CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHEATS B MIRAMANT D		