

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
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, will be used to promote and improve the intermodal transportation system in the State, including but not limited to rail and bus transportation, bicycle lanes and pedestrian sidewalks.

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

LD 832 An Act To Carry Out the Will of the People of the State of Maine by Veto Sustained
Ensuring the Issuance of Bonds To Support the Independence of
Maine's Seniors

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ R	OTP-AM	S-33
GIDEON S	ONTP	H-186 GATTINE D

In November 2015, the voters approved Public Law 2015, chapter 337, a bond authorization to provide for the issuance of bonds to provide funding for the construction of new energy-efficient affordable homes and the adaptive reuse of structures or homes for low-income households headed by a person 55 years of age or older.

This bill makes the following changes to that law in order to ensure the issuance of the approved bonds:

1. It removes the requirement that the Treasurer of State operate at the direction of the Governor in issuing and selling the bonds;
2. It exempts the bonds from the requirements in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, sections 145 and 145-B regarding the need for the signature of the Governor and the attestation of the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services on bonds issued and sold by the Treasurer of State;
3. It places a number of safeguards on the sale of the bonds, including allowing the Treasurer of State to not sell the bonds if debt service would exceed the amount budgeted or the issuance of the bonds would have an adverse impact on the State's credit rating; and
4. It requires the Treasurer of State to transfer the proceeds of the sale of the bonds directly to the Maine State Housing Authority, without the requirement of a warrant drawn by the State Controller.

The bill also requires the director of the Maine State Housing Authority to report annually to the Legislature regarding certain aspects of the bond proceeds and the projects using bond proceeds.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-33)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The bill lists five conditions under which the Treasurer of State is not required to expedite the issuance of the bonds to provide funding for the construction of new energy-efficient affordable homes and the adaptive reuse of structures of homes for low-income households headed by a person 55 years of age or older. Two of those conditions are the receipt of notification that the project is not proceeding and the receipt of notification that alternative funding is available. This amendment specifies that the notification of either of these conditions must be from the Maine State Housing Authority.

House Amendment "A" (H-186)

This amendment removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the bill.