

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

LD 1044 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Eligibility for Disability Retirement Benefits

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ R	OTP-AM ONTP	S-89

This bill amends the laws governing eligibility for disability retirement benefits. Current law provides that former state employees are not eligible for state disability retirement benefits if they were not disabled on their last day of state service. Under this bill, former state employees who are not disabled on their last day of state service and are ineligible for federal social security disability benefits would be eligible for state disability retirement benefits if they prevail in or settle a claim brought under the State's Whistleblowers' Protection Act.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-89)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment clarifies that the period of service for a person who might be eligible for disability retirement benefits under the bill's provision ends as of the date of any settlement agreement pursuant to a claim brought under the State's Whistleblowers' Protection Act.

LD 1045 An Act To Create More Transparency in the Setting of Normal Teacher Retirement Costs

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ R KORNFIELD T	OTP-AM	S-59

This bill requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to prepare and present an actuarial report on normal teacher retirement costs to a joint meeting of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs matters by May 31st of even-numbered years. It also requires the board to rely on this biennial actuarial report in its determination of the percentage of total teacher compensation required to fund normal teacher retirement costs.

This bill also requires the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to conduct a review of the historical and projected future actuarial value of normal teacher retirement costs. It requires the committee to report the results of its review to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-59)

This amendment changes the reporting date for the Maine Public Employees Retirement System's actuarial report required in the bill from May 31st of even-numbered years to July 31st, beginning in 2018.

LD 1118 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Local Infrastructure

CARRIED OVER

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

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$15,000,000, will be used to provide funding to the Municipal Investment Trust Fund to support local infrastructure projects.

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

**LD 1163 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Funding for CARRIED OVER
a Program of Student Debt Payment and To Provide for the
Establishment of That Program**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY N DAUGHTRY M	OTP-AM ONTP OTP-AM	S-336

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$250,000,000, will be used to fund student debt cancellation and refinancing. The bill also establishes the Student Debt Cancellation and Refinancing Program within the Finance Authority of Maine for administration of the funds provided by the bond issue and to provide eligible applicants debt cancellation of half of their nonfederal student debt and debt refinancing of their outstanding nonfederal student debt.

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

Committee Amendment "A" (S-336)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes the bill and instead:

1. Requires a General Fund bond obligation in the amount of \$40,000,000 for a program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine to provide funds for payment of student loan debt for individuals who agree to live and work in Maine for five years and to reimburse employers that make student loan debt repayments on behalf of their employees who agree to live and work in Maine for five years; and
2. Establishes the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Program and the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Fund and requires the Finance Authority of Maine to adopt major substantive rules to implement the program and submit the rules to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-337)

This amendment, which is one of two minority reports of the committee, strikes the bill and instead:

1. Requires a General Fund bond obligation in the amount of \$25,000,000 for a program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine to provide funds for payment of student loan debt for individuals who agree to live and work in Maine for five years and to reimburse employers that make student loan debt repayments on behalf of their employees who agree to live and work in Maine for five years; and
2. Establishes the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Program and the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Fund and requires the Finance Authority of Maine to adopt major substantive rules to implement the program and submit the rules to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

This amendment was not adopted.