

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
130<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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

December 2021

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

4. Authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs to report out a bill to repeal the provision regarding the issuance of additional securities and any other provision of law relating to that provision.

Part TTTT transfers \$15,000.000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to a Department of Health and Human Services, Medical Care - Payments to Providers, Other Special Revenue Funds account in fiscal year 2022-23.

Part UUUU does the following:

1. Makes voters who will be at least 65 years of age before the next election or who self-identify as having a disability eligible to apply for ongoing absentee voter status, which allows the voter to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide election, municipal election and any other election until the status is terminated;
2. Provides that a voter's ongoing absentee voter status must be terminated if the voter fails to return an absentee ballot issued to that voter for a general election;
3. Requires the municipal clerk, as soon as official ballots become available, to immediately issue absentee ballots and return envelopes to voters with ongoing absentee voter status as well as all other voters who have submitted applications for absentee ballots for a single election that have been accepted by the clerk;
4. Provides that election officials may not make any mark indicating the political party of absentee voters on the outside of the return envelopes issued during a general election; and
5. Requires the Secretary of State to enter into a membership agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. by January 1, 2023 for periodic sharing of voter registration information with member states and to use that information to periodically update the central voter registration system.

Public Law 2021, chapter 398 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 1, 2021.

**LD 715 An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 29 does the following.

Part A makes appropriations and allocations of funds for the 2022-2023 biennium baseline.

Part B makes allocations of funds for approved reclassifications and range changes.

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Part C does the following.

1. Establishes the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12, the state contribution, the annual target state share percentage and the mill expectation for the local contribution for fiscal year 2021-22; and
2. Provides a one-year change to the State's essential programs and services education funding model to recognize the decline in student enrollment for the year prior to funding and, due to the unusual nature of the decline, the inability of school administrative units to reduce their costs accordingly.

Part D makes adjustments to the baseline appropriations and allocations in Part A.

Part E authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt emergency rules to implement any provisions of this Act over which the department has specific authority that has not been addressed by some other Part of the Act without the necessity of demonstrating that immediate adoption is necessary to avoid a threat to public health, safety or welfare.

Part F sets the transfer to the Local Government Fund at 3.75% in fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Part G continues authorization for each individual tax expenditure provided by statute.

Part H transfers \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2021-22 and \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2022-23 from the Medical Use of Marijuana Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Part I changes the attrition rate for the 2022-23 biennium from 1.6% to 5% for judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies.

Part J continues the voluntary employee incentive program through the 2022-23 biennium.

Part K directs the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to transfer \$40,000,000, \$20,000,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium, from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Part L removes the Education in the Unorganized Territory account within the Department of Education from the list of accounts authorized to carry unexpended General Fund Personal Services balances and transfers the accumulated balance to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Part M updates the base year for the hospital tax.

Part N lapses \$3,000,000 of the unencumbered balance forward of the Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance - Reimbursement to Cities and Towns, General Fund carrying account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2021-22.

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Part O lapses \$5,000,000 of the unencumbered balance forward of the Department of Health and Human Services, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, General Fund account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2021-22.

Part P lapses \$10,000,000 of the unencumbered balance forward of the Department of Health and Human Services, Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment, General Fund account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2021-22.

Part Q lapses \$60,000,000 of the unencumbered balance forward of the Department of Health and Human Services, Medical Care - Payments to Providers, General Fund carrying account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2021-22.

Part R updates the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index from the medical care services index to the nursing homes and adult day care services index to be used for cost-of-living adjustments for the rate of State reimbursement of nursing homes.

Part S transfers \$32,000,000 from Other Special Revenue Funds to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund by June 30, 2022 and reverses that transfer, with interest, on July 1, 2022.

Part T delays until the 2024-25 biennium the beginning of the Fiscal Stability Program, which requires a biennial budget submitted by the Governor to include a General Fund appropriation of 18% over the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's requested budget.

Part U authorizes the State Court Administrator to increase the salaries of the State's chief justices, Chief Judge, Deputy Chief Judge, associate justices and associate judges by 3% in each of fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23, effective July 1, 2021 and July 1, 2022.

Part V carries forward through the 2022-23 biennium unexpended All Other funds as of June 30, 2021 in the Department of Secretary of State, Elections and Commissions program and requires the funds to be used to provide a match for the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 election security grant.

Part W authorizes the balances in the Office of Treasurer of State, Debt Service - Treasury program at the close of a fiscal year to carry forward to be used for the same purpose over the 2022-23 biennium.

**LD 1506 Resolve, To Continue until July 1, 2021 Limited-period Positions Expiring in  
June 2021**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 14 continues all limited-period positions that are scheduled to expire during June 2021 until July 1, 2021.

Resolve 2021, chapter 14 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 5, 2021.