# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# STATE OF MAINE

 $130^{\text{TH}}$  Legislature Second Regular Session



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

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

July 2022

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#### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

LD 731 An Act To Establish a Program To Assist Regional Firefighter Training Programs, To Provide Tax Credits to Businesses That Employ Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons and To Provide Benefits to Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2022, chapter 731 establishes a program administered by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to provide grants to municipalities for regional fire service training. It also provides an income tax credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022 for employers who permit employees who are volunteer firefighters or volunteer municipal emergency medical services persons to be absent from work for firefighting or emergency response activities without a reduction in pay.

## LD 1129 An Act Relating to the Valuation of Improved Real Property

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 663 provides that, in establishing the just value of improved real property, the value of the property must be based on its highest and best use as of April 1st of each year taking into consideration the three recognized approaches to valuation of commercial property and that the assessor must consider the value of reasonably similar properties with regard to age, condition, use, type of construction, location, design, physical features and economic characteristics. Chapter 663 also provides that, in determining just value, property subject to restrictions that restrict the permitted use of the property may not be considered comparable to property not so restricted.

#### LD 1156 An Act To Reduce Errors in Employment Tax Increment Financing Benefits

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 602 improves the employment tax increment financing program for calendar years beginning with calendar year 2022 by basing benefits on the gross wages of qualified employees rather than on income tax withholding for those employees. The bill directs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the State Tax Assessor to take actions, including the adoption of routine technical rules, to implement the change.