

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST 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**

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**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILLS AND
SUMMARIES OF ENACTED LAWS**

This *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* provides the disposition of all LDs and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Maine Legislature. Please note that all LDs and proposed amendments may be found through the Legislature’s webpage, and each includes a summary of what the bill or amendment proposed.

The *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* is arranged alphabetically by committee. Within each committee section is a subject index of all LDs considered by that committee as well as a digest of the LDs, arranged by LD number. Also included are enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed. Brief analyst notes on certain LDs are also included: a committee digest will indicate if additional notes are provided for an LD. These notes add information staff found useful and may provide useful information to users of this *Digest*; please note that most LDs do not have a note and lack of a note should not be interpreted as having any significance. A separate section of the *Digest* provides a digest of the relatively few LDs that were not referred to a committee or reported from a committee as a committee bill; enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed are provided. Finally, an appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

The final disposition of each LD is noted in the relevant summary digest and index. 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 and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature is Thursday, June 29, 2023 and Wednesday, October 25, 2023, respectively. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

LD 3 An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 1 provides relief to certain Maine households to assist them with high costs for home heating.

Part A transfers \$71,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority no later than June 30, 2023. Of this amount, \$40,000,000 is allocated for heating assistance to households in the State eligible for the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; \$10,000,000 is allocated as emergency funds to households to avert an energy crisis; and \$21,000,000 is allocated for emergency housing to prevent people from experiencing homelessness during the 2022-2023 winter months.

Part B does the following.

1. It transfers \$398,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the newly created Winter Energy Relief Payment Program Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account no later than December 31, 2022.
2. It specifies that relief payments of \$450 are made to certain qualified individuals and establishes those qualifications.
3. It requires the State Tax Assessor to identify eligible recipients and make relief payments to those individuals no later than March 15, 2023.
4. It specifies a process to allow individuals who are eligible but who have not received a relief payment to document eligibility to the State Tax Assessor.
5. It provides that the relief payment is not considered income for Maine income tax purposes.

Part C does the following.

1. It transfers \$4,433,437 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program no later than June 30, 2023.
2. It transfers \$385,754 from the COVID Disaster Relief Payment Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account and \$6,674,993 from the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Reimbursement, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program.
3. Provides the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program with an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$11,494,184 in fiscal year 2022-23 to complete the \$850 pandemic relief payment to each eligible resident of the State as authorized in Public Law 2021, chapter 635, Part L.

Part D deappropriates \$156,752,586 in the Department of Health and Human Services and deallocates \$4,154,555 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine in fiscal year 2022-23 to adjust funding

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

for the 6.2% increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage based on the extension of the national public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic for the first, 2nd and 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2022-23. The offsets for these deappropriations and deallocations are Federal Expenditures Fund allocations of \$158,965,759 and Federal Block Grant Fund allocations of \$1,941,382 in fiscal year 2022-23.

Part E allows the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to suspend the sulfur content requirements for liquid and solid fossil fuels if the commissioner finds that the expected availability of fuel that complies with those requirements is inadequate to meet the needs of residential, commercial or industrial users in this State and that such expected unavailability constitutes an immediate threat to public health, safety or the general welfare. The commissioner is required to specify in writing the period during which the suspension is in effect.

Part F requires the temporary suspension of the provision of law that requires certain General Fund revenue and resources that exceed the General Fund appropriation limit to be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.

Public Law 2023, chapter 1 was enacted as an emergency measure effective January 4, 2023.

LD 206 An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 3 does the following.

Part A makes supplemental appropriations and allocations of funds for fiscal year 2022-23.

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

Part C amends Public Law 2021, chapter 483, "An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds," to repeal the following provisions.

1. Part DD, which required the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a pilot program for in-home personal care services to minors and allocated funding for that purpose.
2. The allocation in Part EE for one-time funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to provide equal supplemental payments during 2022 to certain providers of services.
3. It repeals the allocation in Part KK for one-time funds to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for contracted facilitation services.