

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
LABOR AND HOUSING**

October 2023

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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.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING

LD 12 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Severance Pay to Cover More Types of Employers and Include More Workers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 52 removes the limitation that employee severance pay due to the closing, substantial shutdown or relocation of a covered establishment applies only to industrial and commercial facilities, making the law applicable to sectors that are not within the industrial or commercial category. The law also provides that the definition of “closing” does not include a business consolidation.

LD 13 An Act to Define "Mail" in the Employment Security Law to Include Electronic Notification and to Extend the Appeal Times for Claimants

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 53 adds a definition of “mail” to the Employment Security Law to include delivery by postal service, private carrier or electronic mail. The law specifies that the Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation may not send a notice to an individual as required under the Employment Security Law exclusively by electronic mail without first allowing the individual the opportunity to elect to receive that notice exclusively by electronic mail.

The law also extends the period within which an appeal from a deputy’s decision regarding a claim for benefits under the Employment Security Law may be filed from 15 to 30 calendar days and the period by which that appeal time may be extended for good cause shown from 15 to 30 calendar days. It also clarifies that no fact-finding interview may be scheduled less than 7 calendar days or more than 14 calendar days after the notice of fact-finding interview is mailed.

LD 14 An Act to Simplify an Assessment Notice Requirement Under Department of Labor Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 12 removes the requirement that notices of assessment for the Department of Labor's Safety Education and Training Fund must be sent by certified mail.