

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

October 2023

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



**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.

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### **LD 133 An Act to Include a Representative of Newspaper and Other Press Interests on the Archives Advisory Board and to Require the Member Representing a Historical Society to Have Expertise in Archival Records**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 24 makes the following changes to the Archives Advisory Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-I and described in Title 5, section 96.

1. It adds a member to the board who represents newspaper and other press interests recommended by a statewide professional news organization.
2. It requires the member representing newspaper and other press interests have expertise in journalism.
3. It requires the member representing a state or local historical society have expertise in archival records.

### **LD 138 An Act Regarding the Terms of Trustees of the Phippsburg Cemetery District**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 4 reduces the term of the trustees of the Phippsburg Cemetery District from five years to three years beginning with the trustees elected to serve in 2024.

### **LD 153 An Act to Allow Electronic Distribution of Certain Documents to Municipalities and Electronic Acknowledgment of Receipt of Certain Documents as Acceptable Communications**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 87 makes the following changes in those sections of Title 30-A, chapter 3 that require a county provide a written estimate of proposed county taxes and a notice of the public hearing on proposed county taxes to all municipalities located in the county.

1. It requires a county to deliver the written estimate of proposed county taxes and notice of public hearing to each municipality within the county either by email or regular mail, or deliver the written estimate and notice in person.
2. It authorizes a municipality to request that a county send the written estimate and notice of public hearing to a municipality by email or regular mail.

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3. If the written estimate and notice of public hearing are delivered by email or regular mail, it requires that the municipal clerk must confirm receipt of each.

### **LD 166 An Act to Provide Revenue for Property Tax Relief and Capital Infrastructure Projects**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 14 allows a municipality to use the revenue collected from parking meters within the municipality for property tax relief and to pay the costs of constructing, maintaining and operating capital infrastructure projects.

### **LD 205 An Act to Update the Reimbursement for Travel-related Expenses Incurred as a Result of the Performance of Legislative Duties**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 2 increases the travel-related expenses paid to members of the Legislature and members of the Penobscot Indian Nation, the Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians elected to represent their tribes in the Legislature in the following ways.

1. It sets the mileage reimbursement rate at 55 cents per mile or the federal standard mileage rate, whichever is lower, for travel by the most reasonable direct route to and from a member's place of abode.
2. It sets the meal allowance at \$50 for each day in attendance at session.
3. It sets the housing allowance at \$70 for each day in attendance at session and for each day a member occupies overnight accommodations away from home either immediately before or after attendance at a daily session of the Legislature.
4. It sets the amount a member is entitled to receive as a daily meal allowance in lieu of the meal and housing allowance at \$50 per day.

Public Law 2023, chapter 2 was enacted as an emergency measure effective February 13, 2023.

### **LD 239 An Act to Establish the Pink-edged Sulphur as the State Butterfly**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 88 establishes the Pink-edged Sulphur (*Colias interior*) as the official state butterfly.