

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
TRANSPORTATION**

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.

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LD 259 An Act Making Unified Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 189 does the following.

1. Part A makes allocations of funds for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025.
2. Part B authorizes the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to issue up to \$50,000,000 of GARVEE bonds for highway and bridge needs.
3. Part C sets the attrition rate for the 2024-2025 biennium from 1.6% to 5% for executive branch departments and agencies.
4. Part D requires the State Controller to transfer amounts exceeding \$100,000 from the unallocated balance in the Highway Fund after all commitments to the Highway and Bridge Capital, Highway Light Capital and Maintenance and Operations programs within the Department of Transportation for capital needs.
5. Part E authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to transfer Highway Fund Personal Services balances available at the end of fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the Department of Transportation Highway and Bridge Capital, Highway Light Capital and Maintenance and Operations programs for capital or all other needs. The funds may be allocated by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and the approval of the Governor.
6. Part F authorizes the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, at the request of the Department of Transportation, to issue up to \$200,000,000 in TransCap Trust Fund revenue bonds to support capital improvements to the State's transportation infrastructure.
7. Part G increases the amount of fuel tax revenue dedicated to the TransCap Trust Fund beginning in fiscal year 2023-24.
8. Part H changes the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund to reflect the retirement of liquor operation revenue bonds in fiscal year 2022-23 and directs the first \$7,000,000 in profits received pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-A, section 90 be deposited as undedicated revenue in the General Fund and any additional profits received pursuant to Title 28-A, section 90 be deposited as undedicated revenue in the Highway Fund. This Part also eliminates the Health Care Liability Retirement Fund.
9. Part I with requires that 40% of the revenue from the 5.5% sales tax collected on sales of automobiles by dealers licensed by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles and 40% of the 5.5% sales and use tax collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles attributable to the sales and use tax collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles be transferred

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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to the Highway Fund. The transfer of sales tax revenue is done after the reduction for the transfer to the Local Government Fund so it does not affect the amount provided under so-called revenue sharing. It does not include revenue from the taxes imposed on short-term rentals of automobiles. It also adds Highway Fund allocations to the Department of Transportation for capital projects and also adds an appropriation to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to provide funding for computer system upgrades for the sales and use tax diversion.

Public Law 2023, chapter 189 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 16, 2023.

LD 260 An Act to Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway 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 50 does the following.

1. Part A makes allocations.
2. Part B requires the State Controller to carry forward any unexpended balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, after all financial commitments for obligations and budgetary adjustments have been made, at the end of fiscal year 2022-23 and at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 to the next fiscal year to the All Other line category in the Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, of which up to \$2,000,000 is to be used for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles modernization project and up to \$7,000,000 is to be used for the new license plate general issue project.
3. Part C authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to implement a program to develop the expertise of transportation workers and ferry service workers. The program must provide that upon successful completion of the program and demonstration of prescribed competencies, employees in these classifications may immediately progress to the next level in the respective classification series.

Public Law 2023, chapter 50 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 5, 2023.