

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE  
131<sup>ST</sup> 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**

October 2023

**STAFF:**

MAUREEN DAWSON, PRINCIPAL ANALYST  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW  
5 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1635

<http://legislature.maine.gov/ofpr>

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. MARGARET ROTUNDO, CHAIR

SEN. JILL DUSON

SEN. RICHARD BENNETT

REP. MELANIE F. SACHS, CHAIR

REP. JESSICA L. FAY

REP. BENJAMIN T. COLLINGS

REP. ANN HIGGINS MATLACK

REP. REBECCA J. MILLETT

REP. DREW M. GATTINE

REP. H. SAWIN MILLETT, JR.

REP. JACK E. DUCHARME

REP. MARK JOHN BLIER

REP. NATHAN M. CARLOW

**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.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

**LD 424 An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations 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 17 does the following.

Part A makes baseline appropriations and allocations and changes to the baseline for fiscal year 2023-24 and fiscal year 2024-25.

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

Part C establishes the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12, the state contribution, the annual target state share percentage and the mill expectation for the local contribution for fiscal year 2023-24 and makes permanent a career and technical education middle school grant program.

Part D increases the attrition rate for the 2024-2025 biennium from 1.6% to 5% for judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies. The attrition rate was further increased in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part ZZ.

Part E authorizes a one-time transfer at the close of fiscal year 2022-23 of all fund balances in excess of \$500,000 from total unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection program, General Fund account to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection program, General Fund account.

Part F transfers \$3,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Healthy Soils Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account on or before June 30, 2024 to the the Maine Healthy Soils Program.

Part G transfers of \$2,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account on or before June 30, 2024.

Part H carries forward the remaining portion of one-time funding for the environmental closure activities at the former Maine Military Authority site in Limestone.

Part I allows the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to issue securities for building infrastructure necessary to support new or updated equipment to career and technical education centers and career and technical education regions and extends the date by which securities may be issued to June 30, 2025.

Part J continues authorization for each individual tax expenditure provided by statute.

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Part K authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer available balances of appropriations between the MaineCare General Fund accounts until June 30, 2025.

Part L authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt emergency rules to implement any provisions of this legislation over which it has specific authority that has not been addressed by some other Part of this legislation without the necessity of demonstrating that immediate adoption is necessary to avoid a threat to public health, safety or welfare.

Part M requires the Department of Health and Human Services to identify savings each fiscal year from MaineCare and MaineCare-related General Fund accounts to transfer to the Departmentwide program to offset deappropriations in that program made in this legislation.

Part N delays the beginning of the Fiscal Stability Program within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the 2026-2027 biennium.

Part O adds to the allowed purposes for issuing Maine Governmental Facilities Authority securities for the judicial branch to include acquiring and improving properties in Lewiston, Skowhegan and Augusta.

Part P moves the Board of Dental Practice, identified in statute as an affiliated board, into a licensure program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

Part Q transfers \$30,894,693 to the TransCap Trust Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 6006-G to pay the remaining debt service of the series 2015A and series 2021A bonds; and transfers \$14,910,476 from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Part R increases the Workers' Compensation Board's assessment cap to \$14,700,000 starting in fiscal year 2023-24.

Part S states that undeposited COVID Disaster Relief Payment Program checks are to be treated as unclaimed property not subject to the notice and receipt provisions established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 33, section 2101.

Part T transfers from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services, Other Special Revenue account \$9,246,702 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$9,279,076 in fiscal year 2024-25 to support the baseline allocation and \$12,506,910 in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to fund the cost of increasing billing rates for assigned legal counsel to \$150 per hour. These transfers were rescinded in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part XXXX.