

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

June 2024

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# STATE OF MAINE

131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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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 Second Regular Session 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 Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature is Friday, August 9, 2024. 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 416 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 654 provides funds through a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$25,000,000 for research and development and commercialization as prioritized by the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board's most recent innovation economy action plan and the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Innovation's most recent science and technology action plan. The funds must be allocated in support of technological innovation leading to commercialization in the targeted sectors of life sciences and biomedical technology, environmental and renewable energy technology, information technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology, composites and advanced materials and precision manufacturing. The funds must be awarded through a competitive process and to Maine-based public and private institutions to leverage matching private and federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis. The provision of funds is contingent on the ratification of the bond in the November 2024 statewide election.

**LD 646 An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 520 transfers \$15,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to be used to fully reimburse municipalities for revenue lost under the property tax stabilization program for senior citizens. It also transfers \$50,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization - Mandate program to reimburse municipalities for implementation and administrative costs of the property tax stabilization program. The property tax stabilization program was amended in 2023 to apply only to the property tax year beginning April 1, 2023.

Public Law 2023, chapter 520 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 6, 2024.

**LD 912 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Restore Historic Community Buildings**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 653 provides \$10,000,000 to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission through a General Fund bond issue to be used to restore historic community buildings owned by governmental and nonprofit organizations, with funds being issued contingent on a 25% local match requirement from either private or nonprofit sources. Up to 1% of the funds may be

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used by the Commission to administer the program. The provision of funds is contingent on the ratification of the bond in the November 2024 statewide election.

**LD 1156 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 652 provides \$30,000,000 to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands through a General Fund bond issue to be awarded to nonprofit organizations, municipalities and State Government entities to be used for the design, development and maintenance of nonmotorized, motorized and multi-use trails statewide with a requirement that at least \$3,000,000 must be matched by contributions from public and private sources. Of the funds provided, approximately 25% must be used for nonmotorized trails, 50% for motorized trails and 50% for multi-use trails. No more than \$7,500,000 plus previously unexpended balances may be expended in any one year. The provision of funds is contingent on the ratification of the bond in the November 2024 statewide election.

**LD 2214 An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 643 does the following.

Part A makes changes to appropriations and allocations of funds for 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 and the mill expectation for the local contribution for fiscal year 2024-25.

Part D does the following.

1. It authorizes the transfer of Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery funds within or between departments or agencies during fiscal years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.
2. It allows limited-period positions funded with Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery funds to be extended through December 31, 2026.