

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST 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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**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 1243 Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Propose a State Calendar

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 91 requires the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee, to propose a calendar, to be known as the "state calendar", that includes important religious days and holidays of the State's residents and the citizens of the United States. The calendar shall be developed within existing resources and in consultations with persons representing religious traditions practiced in this state; the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations; and the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes or bands in the State based on the joint recommendation of the tribal governments.

Resolve 2023, chapter 91 requires the Secretary of State to submit a proposed state calendar to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by January 31, 2024. The committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature adopting a state calendar.

LD 1260 Resolve, to Study Expansion of Civics Education and Engagement Through the Secretary of State

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 42 requires the Secretary of State to study the efficacy, feasibility and benefits of appointing a deputy secretary of state to coordinate civics engagement and education matters.

The law also requires the Secretary of State to study the efficacy, feasibility and benefits of moving staffing and administrative services for the Maine Commission for Community Service, established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 7501, from the Department of Education to the office of the Secretary of State in consultation with the Commissioner of Education.

The report must be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by December 6, 2023, including any recommendations and suggested legislation. The committee may report out a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature based on the report.

LD 1336 An Act to Increase Transparency in Municipal Ballot Referenda Expenditures

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 314 makes the following changes related to municipal ballot referenda expenditures.

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1. It requires a ballot question committee that spends more than \$5,000 to influence a municipal referendum campaign in a town or city with a population of less than 15,000 to register and file reports with the Commission of Governmental Ethics and Election Practices established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 1002, using the Commission's electronic filing system.
2. It requires the Commission of Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to be responsible to oversee the filing of registrations or campaign finance reports related to municipal campaigns in towns or cities with a population under 15,000.
3. It applies the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter 4 to all municipal referenda campaign finance reporting.

LD 1350 An Act Regarding the Composition of the Budget Advisory Committee and the Finality of the Budget in the Franklin County Budget Process

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 262 makes the following changes to the Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 873, effective November 5, 2024.

1. It establishes that the term of office of Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee members elected from the three county commissioner districts expires on November 5, 2024, which is the date Franklin County is divided into five county commissioner districts.
2. Beginning on November 5, 2024, it authorizes the municipal caucus for each of the five county commissioner districts to elect two members to the budget advisory committee to serve a three-year term.
3. Beginning November 5, 2024, it requires that an additional member must be elected to the budget advisory committee to serve a one-year term. The member must be elected, on a rotating basis, from among the five districts.
4. It requires that the election of members to the budget advisory committee must occur before April 1st of each year an election is required.
5. It requires that the final adoption of the Franklin County budget necessitates a 3/5 vote of the entire membership of the budget advisory committee.