

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
LABOR AND HOUSING**

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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.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING

LD 1368 An Act to Ensure Fairness in Unemployment Benefits by Clarifying Laws Regarding Labor Organizations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 233 establishes that a claimant for unemployment benefits who is a member of a bona fide labor union is considered to meet the requirement to actively seek work to maintain eligibility for unemployment benefits if that claimant uses and complies with the placement services of the union hiring hall in seeking employment. It also adds consideration of whether fringe benefits are substantially less favorable than those prevailing for similar work in the locality in determining whether work is suitable for purposes of the unemployment insurance program. Finally, it provides that work is unsuitable for a claimant if acceptance of that work would prevent that claimant from maintaining membership in a bona fide labor organization.

LD 1394 An Act to Expand and Strengthen the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 184 makes the following changes to the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program.

1. It changes the planned yield from .02% to .034% of the total wages for each contributing employer.
2. It provides that preapprenticeship programs are considered a remedial or prerequisite educational service under the program for which services must be provided when part of an approved plan.
3. It provides that related costs of licensing and certification necessary to practice in an occupation for which the individual is qualified must be provided to a participant.
4. It provides that registered apprentices and individuals participating in a plan that includes a certified preapprenticeship training program are eligible for services under the program if the individual meets required income guidelines.
5. It provides that the costs for an education transcript, credential evaluation or similar requirement needed to determine eligibility for the program must be paid for by the program for any applicant who is otherwise eligible for participation, as determined by the Department of Labor, if funds are not reasonably available from another source for this purpose.