

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 HEALTH COVERAGE,
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

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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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1. It adds a definition of dental hygiene diagnosis.
2. It removes general supervision from dental hygienists' and faculty dental hygienists' scope of practice.
3. It changes the level of supervision from direct to general for dental hygienists who hold a local anesthesia practice authority.
4. It aligns the scope of practice procedures to be consistent with current practices of dental hygienists, including the practice authorities governing independent practice dental hygienists, public health dental hygienists and dental therapists.
5. It removes a written practice agreement requirement for dental hygienists who hold a public health dental hygienist practice authority.
6. It changes the level of supervision from direct to general for the dental therapist practice authority.
7. It amends the life support certification for all individuals licensed by the Board of Dental Practice to be basic life support instead of cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification.

LD 1602 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group Convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board on Financial Health of Ambulance Services

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 468 makes the following statutory changes related to the financial health of ambulance services based on recommendations from a stakeholder group convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 241.

1. It continues the requirement that health insurance carriers are required to pay specified reimbursement rates for covered services provided by an ambulance service provider and makes clear that carriers may not limit reimbursement to only covered emergency services.
2. Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires health insurance carriers to reimburse ambulance service providers for nontransporting services at the same reimbursement rates for covered services.
3. It prohibits health insurance carriers from requiring an ambulance services provider to obtain prior authorization before transporting an enrollee to a hospital, between hospitals or from a hospital to a nursing home, hospice care facility or other health care facility and requires carriers to reimburse for those services.

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4. It requires health insurance carriers to consider the requirements of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services related to medical necessity when establishing the carrier's own policies for medical necessity.
5. It specifies the cost and performance metrics for the program for collecting and reporting cost and performance metrics related to emergency services that must be established by the Emergency Medical Services' Board in rule and adds one limited-period position to the Emergency Medical Services' Board to facilitate that program.
6. It requires the Maine Health Data Organization to report information on payments for ambulance services on its publicly accessible website.

LD 1615 An Act Regarding Limits on Medication in Vending Machines

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 160 repeals the limitation that no more than 12 different nonprescription drugs may be dispensed by any single vending machine.

LD 1661 An Act to Require a Liability Automobile Insurance Policy to Cover the Costs of Towing and Storing Certain Vehicles

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 395 amends the minimum motor vehicle financial responsibility requirements to add a requirement for coverage of up to \$500 per accident for the reasonable towing and storage charges incurred as a result of an accident involving the insured vehicle if the vehicle is towed at the request of a law enforcement officer. The requirements apply to motor vehicle liability insurance policies beginning July 1, 2024.

The law also requires the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to evaluate the impact of the coverage required for towing and storage costs on premiums for motor vehicle liability insurance policies offered in this State. The bureau is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services no later than February 1, 2024. The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.