

# 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 HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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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.

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### **LD 1732 An Act Regarding the General Assistance Program**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 575 makes the following changes to the laws regarding municipal general assistance programs.

1. It requires overseers and designated or appointed municipal officials administering the program to complete training within 120 days of election or appointment and requires the training to include delivery of trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
2. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that each municipality complies with its duty to provide trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services and requires the department to provide mandatory training to municipalities to ensure that a municipality is able to comply with the general assistance program requirements.
3. It amends provisions governing the municipality of responsibility to increase the provision of assistance from 30 days to six months when a municipality assists an applicant in relocating to another community and from six months to 12 months when an applicant is residing in a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home or hospital or in a hotel, motel or other temporary housing.
4. It requires municipalities to accept applications for general assistance during the municipality's regular business hours.
5. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to create and administer a statewide general assistance database.
6. It adds a reporting requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over general assistance matters.

### **LD 1877 An Act to Reduce the Number of Children Living in Deep Poverty by Adjusting Assistance for Low-income Families**

Public Law 2023, chapter 622 provides that, beginning October 1, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services must increase the maximum amount of monthly Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program assistance by an amount equal to 20% of the maximum payments that were in effect on January 1, 2024 and increase the standard of need to maintain the same differential between the maximum payment and the standard of need that was in effect on January 1, 2024.