

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND HOUSING**

June 2024

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STATE OF MAINE

131ST 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 LABOR AND HOUSING

LD 372 An Act to Increase Enforcement and Accountability for Wage Violations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 651 allows the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor to order an employer, officer, agent or other person to pay unpaid wages determined to be due as well as an additional amount equal to twice the amount of unpaid wages as liquidated damages and a reasonable rate of interest. The law requires the Attorney General to institute a civil action to recover any unpaid wages, liquidated damages and interest, along with the fine as in current law. It clarifies that an employee may not receive payment more than once for the same unpaid wages and liquidated damages owed to the employee. The law also provides that the Department of Labor is authorized to receive the unpaid wages, liquidated damages and interest on behalf of an employee, which the director must pay to the employee.

LD 1896 Resolve, Directing the Workers' Compensation Board to Analyze Data on the Adequacy of Certain Maine Workers' Compensation Benefits

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 139 directs the Workers' Compensation Board to collect data from insurers, third-party administrators, group self-insurers and self-insured employers and to analyze that data to make recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over workers' compensation matters on the adequacy of workers' compensation benefits to claimants under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, sections 212, 213 and 215. The resolve also requires the board to provide monthly updates to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over workers' compensation matters and submit a final report no later than August 16, 2025.

LD 2032 An Act to Improve Maine's Labor Laws by Changing the Laws Governing Elections of Collective Bargaining Agents for Certain Public Employees

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 541 amends the labor relations laws governing state employees, judicial employees and university, academy and community college employees. In current law, when such employees in a collective bargaining unit file a request with their public employer to be represented by a certain organization as their collective bargaining agent, the public employer is authorized to request an election from the Maine Labor Relations Board in order to determine whether the organization indeed represents a majority of the members in the collective bargaining unit. As in the laws governing municipal employees, this law requires an election in such cases only if, after examining the demonstration of majority support, the Maine Labor Relations Board finds majority support for the organization to be in question.