

# 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 COVERAGE,  
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

June 2024

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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.

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can be used to obtain an estimate of the patient's out-of-pocket costs from the patient's health insurance carrier. It also requires health insurance carriers to respond to requests from a patient for an estimate of out-of-pocket costs based on the description of the medical services and the codes provided by the patient's health care entity.

The law prohibits a health care entity from initiating or pursuing any collection action against an uninsured or self-pay patient for items or services provided on a date the health care entity has provided those items or services to a patient unless the health care entity provided a good faith estimate to a patient that requested an estimate. The prohibition on collection actions does not extend to insured patients.

Public Law 2023, chapter 584 also requires that hospitals comply with the price transparency requirements established in 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 180, Subparts A and B as in effect on January 1, 2024. It requires a hospital to provide price transparency data in a standardized format as established by rule by the Maine Health Data Organization and provides that a hospital that fails to comply with the price transparency requirements established by the Maine Health Data Organization may be subject to a fine for noncompliance.

**LD 1832 An Act to Continue the Study of Community Paramedicine and to Make Changes Related to Health Insurance Coverage and Prior Authorization Requirements for Certain Ambulance Service Providers**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 591 makes changes to the laws related to health insurance coverage for ambulance services.

1. It clarifies the reimbursement rate to be paid by health insurance carriers to out-of-network ambulance service providers for covered emergency services.
2. It prohibits health insurance carriers from requiring an air ambulance service provider to obtain prior authorization before transporting an enrollee to a hospital or between hospitals for urgent care.

Public Law 2023, chapter 591 also authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters to report out, after further study, legislation to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 related to reimbursement by health insurance carriers for health care services provided by community paramedicine personnel.

**LD 1921 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding State-chartered Credit Unions**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 539 amends the laws governing credit unions.

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1. It authorizes credit unions to engage in the business of selling, issuing or registering negotiable instruments, instead of checks or money orders, which are the terms used in current law.
2. It allows the Superintendent of Financial Institutions within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to reduce the number of required monthly meetings of a credit union's board of directors for good cause.
3. It adds grounds for expulsion of a credit union member and, by January 1, 2025, requires credit unions to establish a written expulsion policy and expulsion appeals process, which must be provided to credit union members annually.
4. It removes the limitation that credit unions may make loans to only other in-state credit unions.

**LD 1956 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Optometrists**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 580 repeals the laws governing the licensing and regulation of optometrists in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 34-A and enacts a new chapter updating the laws governing the licensing and regulation of optometrists in Title 32, chapter 149.

**LD 2020 An Act to Make Technical Updates to the Maine Uniform Securities Act**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 503 updates references to federal statutes in the Maine Uniform Securities Act and corrects errors to citations made when adopting the Uniform Securities Act of 2002.

**LD 2040 An Act to Restore the Board of Dental Practice's Authority to Issue Letters of Guidance**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 515 restores authority to the Board of Dental Practice to issue letters of guidance involving matters other than a dismissal of a complaint against a licensee.

Public Law 2023, chapter 515 was enacted as an emergency measure effective February 29, 2024.