

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

August 2025

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Part VVV increases the fees charged to an individual applying for or renewing a permit to carry a concealed firearm. This Part also amends the provision that directs a portion of the collected fees to the Treasurer of State by increasing the amount paid to the Treasurer of State.

Part WWW authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of Public Safety to enter into financing agreements in each year of the biennium for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the State Police.

Part XXX lapses \$4,000,000 of the unencumbered balance forward in the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, General Fund account, All Other line category to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund. These funds were originally appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part A for annual grants to communities as described in Part QQ of the same law.

Part YYY amends the provision of law governing the Workers' Compensation Board Administrative Fund to remove statutory language that places a specific dollar amount on the maximum value of assessments that may be levied from insured employers and replace it with language providing that assessments levied may not be designed to produce more revenue than is sufficient for the Workers' Compensation Board to fund the expenditures allocated by the Legislature and to maintain a reserve of up to 1/4 of the board's annual budget.

Part ZZZ transfers \$5,000,000 from the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Part AAAA authorizes the Judicial Department to transfer up to \$80,000 of available balances of appropriations in Personal Services to All Other in order to fund a market pay study.

LD 609 An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 2 does the following.

Part A makes baseline appropriations and allocations and changes to the baseline for fiscal year 2025-26 and fiscal year 2026-27.

Part B makes appropriations and allocations of funds for approved reclassifications and range changes.

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Part C establishes the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12, the state contribution, the annual target state share percentage and the mill expectation for the local contribution for fiscal year 2025-26.

Part D makes supplemental changes to appropriations and allocations of funds for fiscal year 2024-25.

Part E continues authorization for each individual tax expenditure provided by statute.

Part F transfers \$42,393,017 from the interest earnings on the Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Part G requires the State Controller to transfer cash balances in various Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Other Special Revenue Funds accounts to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2026.

Part H sets the attrition rate for the 2026-2027 biennium at 5% for judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies and provides that the attrition rate for subsequent biennia is 1.6%. The attrition rate for the judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies is further increased to 6% for the 2026-2027 biennium in Public Law 2025 chapter 388, Part JJ.

Part I requires a one-time transfer at the close of each fiscal year of the biennium of all funds in excess of \$250,000 and \$300,000 from unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services and All Other line categories, respectively, in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection program, General Fund account to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection program, General Fund account.

Part J transfers \$7,300,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the MCCS Free Community College - Two Enrollment Years program, to continue support of the program through fiscal year 2025-26 for students eligible under Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part QQQ.

Part K requires the State Controller to transfer cash balances from certain Department of Education accounts to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund on or before June 30, 2026.

Part L lapses \$10,000,000 of unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools, General Fund carrying account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2025-26.

Part M increases the cap on the amount that may be transferred to the Board of Environmental Protection Fund from the Maine Environmental Protection Fund, the Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund, the Maine Hazardous Waste Fund and the Uncontrolled Sites Fund.

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Part N requires the State Controller to carry forward for the Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence program up to \$1,217,885 to meet technology development and testing obligations. The funding was originally provided in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part A.

Part O authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer available balances of appropriations between the MaineCare General Fund accounts for the 2026-2027 biennium.

Part P lapses \$1,500,000 from the Maine Background Check Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Health and Human Services to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2026.

Part Q authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt emergency rules to implement any provisions of this law over which the department has specific authority that have not been addressed by some other Part of the law without the necessity of determining that immediate adoption is necessary to avoid a threat to public health, safety or welfare.

Part R changes the requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services establish a crisis receiving center in Aroostook County to instead establish a crisis receiving center in Androscoggin County and carries forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$1,900,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 for the establishment of two behavioral health crisis receiving centers, one each in Aroostook and Penobscot counties, to fiscal year 2025-26, to be used to establish two crisis receiving centers, one each in Androscoggin and Penobscot counties.

Part S modifies the provisions of the inland fisheries and wildlife laws establishing the Fiscal Stability Program by requiring the program to begin in the 2028-2029 biennium instead of the 2026-2027 biennium.

Part T transfers \$2,400,000 from the Department of Public Safety, Administration - Public Safety program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund on or before June 30, 2026.

Part U authorizes the transfer of the unobligated balance in the Statewide-Family and Medical Leave, General Fund and Highway Fund accounts within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in the following order: The University of Maine System, Board of Trustees, Educational and General Activities, General Fund account; The Maine Community College System, Board of Trustees, General Fund account; and The Maine Maritime Academy, General Fund account. Funds transferred must be used for Maine's paid family and medical leave premiums for eligible University of Maine System, Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy employees.

Part V suspends the General Fund appropriation limitation for fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

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Part W lapses \$3,300,000 of unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, State Benefit Mandate Defrayal program, General Fund carrying account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2025-26.

Part X lapses \$14,000,000 of unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Homestead Property Tax Exemption Reimbursement, General Fund carrying account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2025-26.

Part Y transfers \$7,500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Fund for a Healthy Maine in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$21,121,062 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Fund for a Healthy Maine in fiscal year 2026-27.

Part Z authorizes an extension of the expiration date to November 1, 2025 for limited-period positions that are set to expire in June 2025 but are funded through fiscal year 2024-25 and are proposed to continue into the 2026-2027 biennium.

Part AA directs the State Controller to carry forward any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2024-25 of the \$1,000,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part A in the Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health Services - Children program, General Fund account, All Other line category for training clinicians in assertive continuing care to facilitate the delivery of the evidence-based practice for potential expansion of services for the acute mental health needs of adolescents with co-occurring disorders to the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

Part BB directs the State Controller to carry forward any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2024-25 up to \$3,300,000 of the funds appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, State Benefit Mandate Defrayal program, General Fund account to the next fiscal year.

Part CC directs the State Controller to carry forward any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2024-25 up to \$14,000,000 of the funds appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 17 in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Homestead Property Tax Exemption Reimbursement program, General Fund account, All Other line category to the next fiscal year.

Part DD directs the State Controller to carry forward up to \$550,000 of unexpended balance in the All Other line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account at the end of fiscal year 2024-25 to the All Other line category for the next fiscal year in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account to be used to replace the feed, seed and fertilizer database.

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Part EE directs the State Controller to carry forward up to \$1,500,000 of unexpended balance in the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program at the end of fiscal year 2024-25 to the Capital Expenditures line category for the next fiscal year in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program to be used to replace the licensing and inspection database for the division of quality assurance and regulations.

Part FF directs the State Controller to carry forward up to \$750,000 of unexpended balance in the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program at the end of fiscal year 2024-25 to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program to be used to upgrade the Cony Road facility in Augusta.

Part GG transfers \$5,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Disaster Recovery Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to fund the State's share of estimated disaster recovery costs.

Part HH requires the State Controller, at the end of fiscal year 2024-25, to carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$953,300 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part DDDD in the Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health Services - Community program, General Fund account, All Other line category to establish 24 mental health law enforcement liaisons to support mental health crisis intervention mobile response services to the next fiscal year to be used for the same purposes.

Part II provides definitions for purposes of the hospital tax of "acute care hospital," "critical access hospital," "psychiatric hospital" and "rehabilitation hospital" and removes reference to publicly owned specialty hospitals. This Part also specifies that, beginning January 1, 2025, the tax for acute care hospitals and rehabilitation hospitals is equal to 3.25%. The tax for psychiatric hospitals remains at 2.23%.

Part JJ directs the State Controller to carry forward any unexpended balance remaining, up to \$1,500,000, of the funds appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part GGGG in the Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health Services - Community program, General Fund account, All Other line category at the end of fiscal year 2024-25 to the next fiscal year to be used for employee recruitment and to provide retention incentives to staff that provide medication management services pursuant to department rule.

Part KK renames the Reserve for Indigent Legal Services program the Reserve for Public Defense Services program consistent with the name change enacted in Public Law 2023, chapter 558.

Part LL authorizes the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to transfer \$5,300,000 in Personal Services balances to All Other in fiscal year 2024-25 to fund costs associated with

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assigned legal counsel. This Part also directs the State Controller, for the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services, to carry forward any remaining balance in the Personal Services line category for fiscal year 2024-25 and authorizes the commission to transfer these balances to the All Other line category in order to fund contractual services.

Part MM requires the State Controller, at the close of fiscal year 2024-25, to carry forward any unexpended balance of a \$900,000 appropriation in the Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health Services - Community program made in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 to be used to establish crisis receiving centers in Androscoggin, Kennebec and Penobscot counties.

Part NN requires the State Controller, at the close of fiscal year 2024-25 to carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$1,000,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part FFFF in the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Violence Prevention program, General Fund account, All Other line category for annual grants to communities to the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

Part OO transfers \$250,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Animal Welfare Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for extraordinary costs related to the seizing of animals.

Part PP provides one-time funding to address the management of and early intervention for spruce budworms.

Part QQ requires the State Controller at the close of fiscal year 2024-25 to carry forward up to \$1,400,000 of the funds appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part EEEE in the Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health Services - Community program, General Fund account to the next fiscal year to be used to establish a crisis receiving center in Aroostook County.

Part RR repeals the so-called easy enrollment program and provisions related to that program that allow a person filing a Maine income tax return to use that tax return to be provisionally enrolled in the MaineCare program or a qualified plan in the Maine Health Insurance Marketplace. The repeal is effective for tax years beginning in 2025 or later.

Part SS does the following.

1. It updates the training requirements for overseers, municipal officials designated by an overseer or a municipal official appointed to administer municipal general assistance to require training to be done annually and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide information about the rules, requirements and compliance expectations of the municipal general assistance program to those individuals.

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2. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit the required methodology notice no later than June 30, 2025 to seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement a cost-of-living adjustment of 1.95% for reimbursement rates for certain essential support workers.

Part TT authorizes the State Controller to keep open the official system of general accounts of State Government for fiscal year 2024-25 in order to make post-closing entries and adjustments to carry out the provisions of this law.