

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

May 2026

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Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 503 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 1668 An Act Regarding the Voting Requirement to Extend the Date for Adjournment of the Legislature

Public Law 2025, chapter 505 removes the requirement that a vote to extend the length of a regular session of the Legislature beyond the statutory adjournment date be done by 2/3 of the members of the Senate and House present and voting and instead requires an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Senate and House present and voting.

Public Law 2025, chapter 505 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 505 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 1741 An Act Regarding Vacancies in the Office of Sheriff

Public Law 2025, chapter 572 provides that, in the case of a vacancy in the office of sheriff, if the county political committee submits one or more recommendations to the Governor for consideration for appointment as sheriff, the chief deputy exercising the same rights and powers of the sheriff during the vacancy of the office of sheriff must be included for consideration for appointment as sheriff if the chief deputy is enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant. The law also specifies that if the office of sheriff becomes vacant because of death, resignation or otherwise, the chief deputy has and may exercise the same rights and powers and is subject to the same duties and liabilities as a sheriff until the vacancy in the office of sheriff is filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine.

LD 1744 An Act to Modify Provisions of the State Civil Service System Governing Employee Recruitment and Retention

Public Law 2025, chapter 623 makes the following changes to the laws governing recruitment and retention adjustments for state employees in the classified service.

1. It requires a state agency or bargaining agent to file a request for a recruitment and retention adjustment with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources on forms prescribed by the bureau.
2. It establishes that a recruitment and retention adjustment may be authorized by the State Human Resources Officer only when justified by prescribed conditions. It also, subject to certain exceptions, requires a committee to be established to evaluate each request from a state agency or bargaining agent for a recruitment and retention adjustment.

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3. It establishes a preliminary review process to be completed by the State Human Resources Officer when a request for a recruitment and retention adjustment is filed. The purpose of the preliminary review is to determine the extent to which vacancy rates, turnover rates or other workforce indicators identified in the request are attributable to certain conditions that would not require a committee to be formed to evaluate the request. This preliminary review process must be completed within 30 days following the receipt of the request.
4. It requires a recruitment and retention adjustment to be reviewed at least every four years in alignment with the market pay study required pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 7061, subsection 4, paragraph B and adjusted to changes in the labor market or the overall relation of the standard pay policy to the specialized labor market.
5. It establishes an appeals process for decisions of the State Human Resources Officer.
6. It establishes that if resources within a department or agency budget do not exist to fund an approved adjustment, the State Human Resources Officer must submit the cost items for inclusion in the Governor's next operating budget. If the Legislature does not appropriate the requested funds, the department or agency is not obligated to make the adjustment.

LD 1934 An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting

Effective September 30, 2026, Public Law 2025, chapter 516 requires that public outdoor lighting installed or replaced after October 1, 2026 comply with certain standards, including standards established by the American National Standards Institute and the Illuminating Engineering Society, intended to reduce the amount of unnecessary light emitted. It includes exemptions for certain types of lighting such as outdoor sports lighting, temporary lighting and required and emergency lighting. The law directs certain departments to adopt rules to implement the requirements of the law. It also provides that a municipality in the State may adopt a local ordinance to promote compliance with the provisions of this law and allows a municipality to adopt ordinances that are stricter than those required by the law.

Public Law 2025, chapter 516 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 516 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 1969 An Act to Amend the Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act and Clarify the Definition of "Virtual Currency"

Public Law 2025, chapter 675 makes the following changes to the Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act.