

STATE OF MAINE
131ST 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**

October 2023

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Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

SUBJECT INDEX

Budget Bills - Biennial and Supplemental

Enacted	LD 206	An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023	PUBLIC 3
	LD 258	An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025	PUBLIC 412
	LD 424	An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government	PUBLIC 17
Not Enacted	LD 423	An Act Making Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government	CARRIED OVER
	LD 645	An Act to Continue Certain Limited-period Positions Until Full Funding Is Provided	Died On Adjournment
	LD 646	An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1982	An Act Regarding Appropriations and Allocations to Support the State of Maine	CARRIED OVER

Fiscal Policy

Enacted	LD 760	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Signature Requirements on Issuance of General Obligation Bonds	PUBLIC 223
Not Enacted	LD 193	An Act to Provide Excess General Fund Revenue to the School Revolving Renovation Fund and the Education Stabilization Fund	ONTP
	LD 734	An Act to Authorize the Treasurer of State and Municipalities to Invest in Gold, Silver and Other Precious Metals	ONTP

General Obligation Bond Bills

**Not
Enacted**

LD 212	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade Municipal Culverts at Stream Crossings	CARRIED OVER
LD 236	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support the Economic Development of the Fishing Industry and the Portland Harbor Dredging Project	CARRIED OVER
LD 367	An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation	CARRIED OVER
LD 416	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization	CARRIED OVER
LD 427	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Research, Development and Commercialization in Maine's Marine Technology and Aquaculture Sector	CARRIED OVER
LD 450	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade and Replace Emergency Alert System Infrastructure of Maine Public	CARRIED OVER
LD 460	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Student Success and Workforce Readiness Within the University of Maine System	CARRIED OVER
LD 503	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund the Maine Community College System	CARRIED OVER
LD 749	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide a New Dormitory Facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics	CARRIED OVER
LD 912	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Restore Historic Community Buildings	CARRIED OVER
LD 1074	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-income Households	CARRIED OVER
LD 1156	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation	CARRIED OVER
LD 1163	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Capital Improvements for Arts and Cultural Facilities	CARRIED OVER
LD 1185	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund	CARRIED OVER

LD 1457	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for a Jail in Caribou	CARRIED OVER
LD 1480	An Act to Protect Union Wharf and Sustain Maine's Maritime Industries	CARRIED OVER
LD 1871	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in a Green Energy Materials Building at the University of Maine	CARRIED OVER
LD 1957	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Maine's Railroad Infrastructure	CARRIED OVER

Miscellaneous Funding and Other Requests

Enacted	LD 3	An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program	PUBLIC 1
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DIGEST OF BILLS
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Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action	Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Law	Laws Ch	Analyst Note?	Session	
AFA	3	An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program	Reported Out			12/27/22	Emergency Enacted	PL	1		R1
AFA	193	An Act to Provide Excess General Fund Revenue to the School Revolving Renovation Fund and the Education Stabilization Fund	Reported Out			6/2/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
AFA	206	An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023	Reported Out			2/14/23	Emergency Enacted	PL	3		R1
AFA	212	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade Municipal Culverts at Stream Crossings	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	236	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support the Economic Development of the Fishing Industry and the Portland Harbor Dredging Project	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	258	An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025	Reported Out			7/5/23	Enacted	PL	412		S1
AFA	367	An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	416	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action	Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws Law	Ch	Analyst Note?	Session
AFA	423	An Act Making Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1
AFA	424	An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		3/28/23	Enacted	PL	17	R1
AFA	427	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Research, Development and Commercialization in Maine's Marine Technology and Aquaculture Sector	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1
AFA	450	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade and Replace Emergency Alert System Infrastructure of Maine Public	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1
AFA	460	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Student Success and Workforce Readiness Within the University of Maine System	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1
AFA	503	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund the Maine Community College System	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1
AFA	645	An Act to Continue Certain Limited-period Positions Until Full Funding Is Provided	Reported Out	OTP-AM		7/20/23	Died On Adjournment			S1
AFA	646	An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1
AFA	734	An Act to Authorize the Treasurer of State and Municipalities to Invest in Gold, Silver and Other Precious Metals	Reported Out	ONTP		5/11/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			S1
AFA	749	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide a New Dormitory Facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action	Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session	
							Law	Ch			
AFA	760	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Signature Requirements on Issuance of General Obligation Bonds	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/18/23	Enacted	PL	223		S1
AFA	912	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Restore Historic Community Buildings	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	1023	An Act to Strengthen Maine's Financial Future in Perpetuity by Establishing the Irrevocable Budget Trust Fund	Reported Out	ONTP		5/11/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
AFA	1074	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-income Households	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	1156	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	1163	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Capital Improvements for Arts and Cultural Facilities	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	1185	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	1457	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for a Jail in Caribou	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	1480	An Act to Protect Union Wharf and Sustain Maine's Maritime Industries	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
AFA	1607	An Act to Stabilize the Pension Funds of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System	Reported Out	ONTP		6/13/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
AFA	1733	An Act to Require the Revenue Forecasting Committee to Prepare Economic Impact Statements for Certain Legislation	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action	Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws Law	Ch	Analyst Note?	Session
AFA	1871	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in a Green Energy Materials Building at the University of Maine	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm 7/25/23					S1
AFA	1920	An Act to Authorize a Supplemental Benefit Relief Payment	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm 7/25/23					S1
AFA	1957	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Maine's Railroad Infrastructure	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm 7/25/23					S1
AFA	1982	An Act Regarding Appropriations and Allocations to Support the State of Maine	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm 7/25/23					S1

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

LD 3 An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 1 provides relief to certain Maine households to assist them with high costs for home heating.

Part A transfers \$71,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority no later than June 30, 2023. Of this amount, \$40,000,000 is allocated for heating assistance to households in the State eligible for the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; \$10,000,000 is allocated as emergency funds to households to avert an energy crisis; and \$21,000,000 is allocated for emergency housing to prevent people from experiencing homelessness during the 2022-2023 winter months.

Part B does the following.

1. It transfers \$398,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the newly created Winter Energy Relief Payment Program Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account no later than December 31, 2022.
2. It specifies that relief payments of \$450 are made to certain qualified individuals and establishes those qualifications.
3. It requires the State Tax Assessor to identify eligible recipients and make relief payments to those individuals no later than March 15, 2023.
4. It specifies a process to allow individuals who are eligible but who have not received a relief payment to document eligibility to the State Tax Assessor.
5. It provides that the relief payment is not considered income for Maine income tax purposes.

Part C does the following.

1. It transfers \$4,433,437 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program no later than June 30, 2023.
2. It transfers \$385,754 from the COVID Disaster Relief Payment Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account and \$6,674,993 from the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Reimbursement, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program.
3. Provides the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program with an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$11,494,184 in fiscal year 2022-23 to complete the \$850 pandemic relief payment to each eligible resident of the State as authorized in Public Law 2021, chapter 635, Part L.

Part D deappropriates \$156,752,586 in the Department of Health and Human Services and deallocates \$4,154,555 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine in fiscal year 2022-23 to adjust funding

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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for the 6.2% increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage based on the extension of the national public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic for the first, 2nd and 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2022-23. The offsets for these deappropriations and deallocations are Federal Expenditures Fund allocations of \$158,965,759 and Federal Block Grant Fund allocations of \$1,941,382 in fiscal year 2022-23.

Part E allows the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to suspend the sulfur content requirements for liquid and solid fossil fuels if the commissioner finds that the expected availability of fuel that complies with those requirements is inadequate to meet the needs of residential, commercial or industrial users in this State and that such expected unavailability constitutes an immediate threat to public health, safety or the general welfare. The commissioner is required to specify in writing the period during which the suspension is in effect.

Part F requires the temporary suspension of the provision of law that requires certain General Fund revenue and resources that exceed the General Fund appropriation limit to be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.

Public Law 2023, chapter 1 was enacted as an emergency measure effective January 4, 2023.

LD 206 An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 3 does the following.

Part A makes supplemental appropriations and allocations of funds for fiscal year 2022-23.

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

Part C amends Public Law 2021, chapter 483, "An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds," to repeal the following provisions.

1. Part DD, which required the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a pilot program for in-home personal care services to minors and allocated funding for that purpose.
2. The allocation in Part EE for one-time funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to provide equal supplemental payments during 2022 to certain providers of services.
3. It repeals the allocation in Part KK for one-time funds to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for contracted facilitation services.

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Part C also provides that the funds allocated but not used in Parts DD, EE and KK are instead allocated to extend the temporary Small Business Health Insurance Premium Support Program through December 2023.

Part C also does the following.

1. It authorizes the transfer of unspent funds within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to the Finance Authority of Maine, Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Fund.
2. It authorizes limited-period positions funded with the Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery to be extended via financial order and authorizes the encumbered balances within the Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery to be carried forward through fiscal year 2025-26 to align with the period of performance authorized by the Federal Government.
3. It clarifies that funds approved in Public Law 2021, chapter 483 for state parks may be used for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

Part D removes the borrowing authority of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing agreements in fiscal year 2021-22 and increases the borrowing authority of the department to enter into financing agreements in fiscal year 2022-23 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Central Fleet Management Division and adjusts the interest rate.

Part E clarifies that the winter energy relief payment authorized in Public Law 2023, chapter 1 will not be included as income, may not be considered to reduce need and may not be considered a potential resource when determining an application for the municipal general assistance program.

Part F authorizes an extension of the expiration date to August 1, 2023 for limited-period positions that are set to expire in June 2023 but are funded through fiscal year 2022-23 and are proposed to continue into the next biennium.

Part G directs the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to transfer \$149,955 from the balance in the authority's operating account to the State as undedicated revenue no later than June 30, 2023.

Part H authorizes the State Controller to carry forward to fiscal year 2023-24 any unexpended balance appropriated in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Information Services program, General Fund account, All Other line category in fiscal year 2022-23.

Part I authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to transfer by financial order available Personal Services balances in the Information Services program, General Fund account, for fiscal year 2022-23 only, to fund statewide cybersecurity costs.

Part J authorizes the State Controller to transfer up to \$6,600,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Retirement Allowance Fund within the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to fund one-time 1.0% cost-of-living increase for retirement benefit payments.

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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Part K resolves a conflict regarding the deposit of revenue into the Animal Welfare Fund from the surcharge on the registration of pet food by specifying that the maximum revenue the Animal Welfare Fund may receive from the surcharge is \$57,000.

Part L authorizes the State Controller to carry forward to fiscal year 2023-24 and fiscal year 2024-25 any unexpended balance of the \$2,756,126 appropriated in the Housing Opportunity Program, General Fund account, All Other line category in Public Law 2021, chapter 635, Part A, section 8 to be expended for the same purposes.

Part M lapses \$10,777,679 of the unencumbered balance forward in the Department of Health and Human Services, Medical Care Services - Payments to Providers program, General Fund account to the General Fund in fiscal year 2022-23.

Part N lapses \$6,161,154 of the unencumbered balance forward of the Department of Health and Human Services, Nursing Facilities program, General Fund carrying account to the General Fund in fiscal year 2022-23.

Part O directs the State Controller to carry forward up to \$259,000 of unexpended balance in the Department of Secretary of State, Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations program, General Fund account, All Other line category at the end of fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 for the next fiscal year to be used for contracted programming costs to implement online voter registration.

Part P directs that remaining balances in the Office of Treasurer of State, Debt Service - Treasury program carry forward from fiscal year 2022-23 to 2023-24.

Part Q authorizes the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services to adopt major substantive rules on an emergency basis to amend the billing rate for assigned legal counsel effective March 1, 2023 to a maximum of \$150 per hour without the necessity of demonstrating that immediate adoption is necessary to avoid an immediate threat to public health, safety or general welfare. This Part also suspends, between March 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023, the requirement that the hourly rate of compensation for an appointed guardian ad litem may not be less than the rate of compensation for assigned legal counsel established by the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services.

Part R requires the Maine Milk Commission to contract for a study to assess the cost of milk production in Maine based on costs and other financial factors in calendar year 2022 to be completed by December 31, 2023. This Part also transfers \$50,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Milk Commission Other Special Revenue Funds account to fund the study.

Part S requires the Department of Health and Human Services, once it completes the MaineCare reimbursement rate setting process, to provide reimbursement for patients discharged from psychiatric inpatient units and inpatient substance use disorder units at an initial rate that provides 100% aggregate cost reimbursement for providers based on 2022 data.

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Part T requires the Department of Health and Human Services to distribute funds to long-term care providers pursuant to Part A of this legislation based on a methodology that takes facility needs into account. The funds provided are meant to serve as interim support to assist long-term care providers adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and higher than expected inflation until the department implements rate-setting system reform for services provided by long-term care providers.

Part U extends by one year the deadline for expenditure of the one-time supplemental payments distributed to nursing and residential care facilities.

Public Law 2023, chapter 3 was enacted as an emergency measure effective February 21, 2023.

LD 258 An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 412 does the following.

Part A makes changes to appropriations and allocations of funds for the 2024-2025 biennium.

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

Part C transfers \$4,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Judicial Department, Courts – Supreme, Superior and District program, Other Special Revenue Funds account on or before June 30, 2024 for distribution by the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission to providers of civil legal services.

Part D updates the title of the Director of Human Resources to State Human Resources Officer within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. It also directs the Revisor of Statutes to update this title when updating, publishing or republishing the statutes and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to update this title when adopting or amending rules and developing or publishing forms, policies and publications.

Part E authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue additional securities up to an amount of \$39,500,000 to pay for the costs associated with the planning, design, renovation, abatement, construction, financing, furnishing and equipping of new and existing facilities to serve as a headquarters for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Part F authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue additional securities up to an amount of \$71,050,000 to pay for the costs of capital repairs and improvements to and construction of state-owned facilities and hazardous waste cleanup on state-owned properties.

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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Part G requires the Department of Corrections to study the sewage system at the Mountain View Correctional Facility and to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by February 15, 2024.

Part H adjusts the annual rates of pay used to determine the State's contribution toward an employee's health insurance premium beginning on November 1, 2023. This Part also authorizes the transfer of funds from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Salary Plan program in the Personal Services line category and between programs and departments within the General Fund and Highway Fund to implement the adjustments to the annual rates of pay.

Part I resets the base for the appropriation limitation calculation at 98% of the baseline General Fund revenue projected by the Revenue Forecasting Committee as of December 1, 2022. Additionally, changes are made to clarify how transfers to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund are to be handled when baseline General Fund revenue exceeds the appropriation limitation. This Part also repeals a defined term that is no longer used.

Part J does the following.

1. It creates the Dirigo business incentives program to provide a tax credit to qualified businesses.
2. It provides an exemption from the requirement for confidentiality of tax records for information disclosed as part of certain reports to the Department of Economic and Community Development and legislative committees regarding the program.
3. It extends the end date of the Pine Tree Development Zone program by one year, eliminates the Pine Tree Recreation Zone program and eliminates the Maine capital investment credit as of January 1, 2025.
4. It allows a business participating in the Dirigo business incentives program to qualify for certain benefits currently available to businesses participating in the Pine Tree Development Zone program, including electricity discount rates and exemption from certain requirements for the sale of electricity.
5. It Prohibits issuing a certificate of approval for employment tax increment financing after December 31, 2024 and eliminates the employment tax increment financing benefits as of December 31, 2034.

Part K transfers \$5,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority, Shelter Operating Subsidy program, Other Special Revenue Funds account on or before June 30, 2024 to meet projected obligations.

Part L clarifies the law regarding the training program implemented by the State Tax Assessor to develop the expertise of revenue agents to provide that, upon successful completion of the program and demonstration of prescribed competencies, employees in the revenue agent classification may progress immediately to the senior revenue agent classification and employees in the senior

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revenue agent classification may progress immediately to the principal revenue agent classification.

Part M limits the jurisdiction of the Maine Board of Tax Appeals within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to matters when the amount in controversy is at least \$1,000 but no more than \$500,000.

Part N carries forward to the next fiscal year any remaining balances in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Debt Service – Government Facilities Authority program, General Fund account in each year of the 2024-2025 biennium.

Part O authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to carry forward any remaining balance in the Central Administrative Applications program for fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Part P authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing agreements in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Central Fleet Management Division.

Part Q authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing agreements in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for improvements to the State's technology infrastructure and data centers; purchase of enterprise software; modernization of databases, storage and other components; and improved security of personally identifiable information and other confidential data.

Part R authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing agreements in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the acquisition of hardware, software and systems to support the operations of the Statewide Radio Network System Reserve Fund.

Part S eliminates the property tax stabilization program. It also increases the maximum benefit for persons who are 65 years of age or older under the property tax fairness credit and the benefit allowed under the senior property tax deferral program and permits otherwise eligible persons with no more than 2 years of delinquent property taxes to receive a deferral of taxes if the amount of delinquent taxes is added to the amount of taxes deferred and subject to certain conditions.

Part T requires any All Other or Capital Expenditures balance remaining in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection program to be carried forward each fiscal year.

Part U clarifies that response activities undertaken by the State of Maine Animal Response Team may include providing adequate care for animals in state custody.

Part V changes the position of Deputy Director in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands from serving at the pleasure of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to a classified, confidential position.

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Part W clarifies that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, with the Governor's approval, has the authority to accept gifts identified as services or other intangible assets.

Part X authorizes the use of unrestricted contributions from private sources in the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund for administrative costs and consulting services.

Part Y changes the meal allowance for appointed members of the Land for Maine's Future Board to not exceed the United States General Services Administration rates.

Part Z makes a technical change to be consistent with changes made to the organization of the Maine Geological Survey in Public Law 2021, chapter 398, which removed the requirement that the Director of the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry be the director of the survey.

Part AA authorizes a one-time transfer at the close of fiscal year 2022-23 of all funds in excess of \$500,000 from total unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services and All Other line categories 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 BB directs the University of Maine System to study and analyze the potential effects on public health and the State's economy of the State's adopting permanent Eastern Standard Time or permanent Eastern Daylight Time and determine if each adoption will serve the convenience of commerce as required by the United States Department of Transportation and submit a report with suggested legislation by February 1, 2024 to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Part CC makes part-time nursing faculty eligible for the nursing education loan repayment program, with repayment of loans of up to \$10,000 for a master's degree and up to \$20,000 for a doctoral degree.

Part DD changes the rate of the penalty for those state employees who retired between July 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012 and for teachers who retired between July 1, 2011 and July 1, 2012 who had at least 25 years of service on July 1, 2011 but had not attained 62 years of age to 2.25% for each year the person was below 62 years of age upon retirement from service. The changes take effect beginning October 1, 2023.

Part EE adds probation officers and other employees identified by the Commissioner of Corrections to those employees who may be assigned a state vehicle. It also updates the list of those employees who are authorized to use state vehicles for commuting between home and work to add employees designated by the Commissioner of Corrections and law enforcement officials in the Office of Cannabis Policy and to remove law enforcement officials in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

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Part FF requires that the Attorney General approve the compensation set for the Chief Medical Examiner's office administrator.

Part GG doubles the mandatory assessment on a person convicted of a crime. Revenue from the assessment goes to the Victims' Compensation Fund.

Part HH requires the Commissioner of Corrections to review the current organizational structure of the Department of Corrections to improve organizational efficiency and cost-effectiveness and requires the State Budget Officer to transfer positions and available balances by financial order during the 2024-2025 biennium. Position adjustments made after December 1st and before July 1st of each fiscal year may be considered an adjustment to position count or appropriations. Any transfers resulting in a program or mission change or facility closure must have legislative review.

Part II maintains the rate of reimbursement to municipalities under the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Reimbursement program at 76% for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2023 instead of increasing the rate by three percentage points each year.

Part JJ authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer, by financial order, the unobligated balance from Personal Services to the All Other line category in the Long Creek Youth Development program for fiscal year 2023-24 and 2024-25 to fund juvenile community programs and services.

Part KK transfers a total of \$3,100,000 on or before June 30, 2024 from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account and the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Part LL lapses \$1,057,313 of unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Corrections, Admin Corrections – Carrying account to the General Fund no later than June 30, 2024.

Part MM authorizes the Department of Corrections to transfer, by financial order, available balances designated for fuel expenditures from all facility accounts within the department into the new consolidated Corrections Fuel program, General Fund account.

Part NN lapses \$134,125 of unencumbered balance forward from the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council, State of Maine Bicentennial Celebration, General Fund account to the General Fund in fiscal year 2023-24.

Part OO designates the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund as an interest-bearing account.

Part PP reduces the transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Healthy Soils Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account authorized in Public Law 2023, chapter 17, Part F from \$3,000,000 to \$1,500,000 and reduces the transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program

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Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account authorized in Public Law 2023, chapter 17, Part G from \$2,000,000 to \$1,000,000.

Part QQ transfers \$2,000,000 at the close of fiscal year 2023-24 from the Other Special Revenue Funds accounts within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Part RR transfers \$300,000 from available Bureau of Insurance, Other Special Revenue Funds balances in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to the Department of the Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purpose of contracting with a designated nonprofit and independent health insurance consumer assistance entity to continue to operate the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24-A, section 4326.

Part SS does the following.

1. It transfers \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Finance Authority of Maine, Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.
2. It transfers \$1,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program within the Finance Authority of Maine to support the program.
3. It transfers \$1,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Doctors For Maine's Future Scholarship Fund program within the Finance Authority of Maine to support the program.

Part TT does the following.

1. It transfers \$5,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority, Housing Authority - State program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.
2. It requires the State Controller, as the 5th priority transfer at the close of fiscal year 2022-23 only, after all transfers are made pursuant to statute, to transfer from the available balance of the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund up to \$65,000,000 to the Maine State Housing Authority, Housing Authority - State program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.
3. It requires that up to \$35,000,000 of the funds transferred from the available balance of the unappropriated surplus must be used to fund the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program and the remainder must be used to fund the Low-income Housing Tax Credit Program.

Part UU repeals the requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services establish, operate and maintain a statewide occupational disease reporting system.

Part VV directs the Department of Health and Human Services to electronically provide income records and program enrollment information of recipients of the department's income

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supplementation and assistance programs when requested by entities, under certain conditions for purposes of facilitating administration of the low-income home energy assistance program; the low-income assistance program; a local, state or federal subsidized housing program; and an energy efficiency program administered by an entity approved by the department or any other entity or program that, in the judgment of the department, provides services or resources that promote the health and well-being of recipients of department services.

Part WW provides that the director of the division of licensing and certification within the Department of Health and Human Services is appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and serves at the pleasure of the commissioner.

Part XX provides that the executive director of the Maine Health Insurance Marketplace is appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and serves at the pleasure of the commissioner.

Part YY updates the base year for the hospital tax.

Part ZZ increases the attrition rate for the 2024-2025 biennium to 8% in fiscal year 2023-24 and 6% in fiscal year 2024-25 for judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies. The attrition rate was increased from 1.6% to 5% for judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies in PL 2023 c. 17 Part D.

Part AAA implements a paid family and medical leave benefits program based on the recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program established by the 130th Legislature with the following provisions.

1. The program provides up to 12 weeks of family leave and up to 12 weeks of medical leave to eligible covered individuals.
2. No more than 12 weeks of family leave and medical leave in the aggregate may be taken in a 12-month period.
3. An individual is eligible for leave under the program after earning at least six times the state average weekly wage in the preceding four calendar quarters prior to the application submission or if the individual is self-employed and has elected to be part of the program.
4. The maximum weekly benefit amount is capped at 100% of the state average weekly wage. The weekly benefit amount is 90% for the portion of the covered individual's average weekly wage that is equal to or less than 50% of the state average weekly wage and is 66% for that portion of the covered individual's average weekly wage that is more than 50% of the state average weekly wage up to the maximum weekly benefit.
5. Covered individuals are required to file claims for benefits in accordance with rules adopted by the department administering the program and to provide certification that they qualify for family leave or medical leave.

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6. Except for an employee who has not been employed for at least 120 days, an employee is entitled to the same position or an equivalent position upon return to work from family leave or medical leave.
7. Absent an emergency, illness or other sudden necessity for taking leave, an employee is required to give reasonable notice to the employee's supervisor of the employee's intent to use leave and specifies that use of leave must be scheduled to prevent undue hardship on the employer.

This Part also does the following.

1. It establishes the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund to support the program.
2. It funds the administrative costs and payment of benefits through payroll contributions of no more than 1% of wages shared by employers and employees, except that employers with fewer than 15 employees are not required to make employer contributions to the program.
3. It authorizes employers to provide these benefits through a private plan if the benefits for family and medical leave provided to their employees are the same as provided in the program.
4. It establishes the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Authority to advise the administrator on the implementation and administration of the program.
5. It requires payroll contributions to begin January 1, 2025 and benefit claims to be processed beginning January 1, 2026.
6. It requires the program to be reviewed under the State Government Evaluation Act in 2029.
7. It requires the State Budget Officer to calculate the amount of the premium contributions for paid family and medical leave benefits in Part A that applies against each General Fund account for all departments and agencies and transfer those amounts by financial order upon the approval of the Governor and submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs a report of the transferred amounts.
8. It authorizes a tribal government to elect to participate in the program.

Part BBB authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer by financial order available All Other and Personal Services balances in the Developmental Services - Community program account to the Personal Services line category in the Crisis Outreach Program account.

Part CCC authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer unencumbered All Other balances of appropriations from any account within the Department of Health and Human Services, excluding balances in the IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Assistance and State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance programs, for the information system modernization project in the office of aging and disability services.

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Part DDD authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer available balances between the State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance program and the IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Assistance program in the All Other line category.

Part EEE authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer by financial order available Personal Services balances in the Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center program, the Disproportionate Share – Riverview Psychiatric Center program, the Riverview Psychiatric Center program and the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center program to the All Other line category of those programs.

Part FFF lapses unencumbered balance forward from several specified General Fund accounts of the Department of Health and Human Services to the General Fund unappropriated surplus no later than June 30, 2024.

Part GGG requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a state plan amendment to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to request approval to reimburse parents of minor children who are eligible for home health aide services under the MaineCare program for providing those services under the Medicaid home health benefit. Upon approval, the department must amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Section 40, Home Health Services, to implement the requirement no later than 12 months after receiving federal approval. The department must consult with home health agencies when developing the rule. This Part also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a progress report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than February 1, 2024.

Part HHH transfers \$5,500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance program, Other Special Revenue Funds account, no later than June 30, 2024.

Part III transfers funds from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances – General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations – Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2023-24 and one replacement aircraft engine in fiscal year 2024-25.

Part JJJ provides for a raise of 4.5% for judges and justices of the state courts beginning on July 1, 2023.

Part KKK increases the maximum per fiscal year fee revenue that may be credited to the judicial branch Other Special Revenue Funds account for capital expenses.

Part LLL directs the Maine State Housing authority to make funds available for the acquisition of land or real property to support the creation of recovery residences that provide services to parents or guardians recovering from substance use disorder and their minor children; specifies certain parameters for the location of the acquired land or real property; specifies services provided in the residences; and specifies that staff employed at a rural recovery residence must be paid a livable wage.

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Part MMM requires the Governor, in consultation with the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives, to convene a working group to evaluate the State's unemployment laws and how those laws relate to the unemployment compensation system, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the MaineCare program, general assistance programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and acquiring welfare benefits. The working group is required to provide a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs no later than January 15, 2024.

Part NNN lapses \$106,970 of unencumbered balance forward from the Legislature, General Fund carrying account, Personal Services line category to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2024 and lapses \$111,033 of unencumbered balance forward from the Legislature, General Fund carrying account, Personal Services line category to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2025.

Part OOO authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of Public Safety to enter into financing agreements in fiscal year 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the State Police.

Part PPP directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget to rename The Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations program to the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions program and rename The Elections and Commissions program to the Federal Elections Grant program.

Part QQQ transfers \$7,500,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and fiscal year 2024-25 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Community College System Free Community College - 2 Enrollment Years program, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Maine Community College System to provide two years of free community college for all eligible students who meet certain conditions. This Part also repeals the eligibility requirements for two free years of community college as established in Public Law 2021, chapter 635, Part OO and replaces them with requirements that specifies that funds provided must be used to provide two free years of community college for all eligible students.

Part RRR requires the Department of Education's office of adult education to notify the Governor's office and the Legislature if the state allocation for expenditures on adult education programs falls below 95% of the allocation established for the prior year and include information on the amount necessary to fulfill the state obligation to reimburse adult education costs and the total amount that is available. It also directs the department to establish a working group, or as an alternative hire and fund an outside agency, to analyze the State's adult education system and reimbursement formula.

Part SSS authorizes the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to deposit penalties paid for registration or reporting violations into its lobbyist registration fee account to be spent exclusively on information technology costs.

Part TTT requires the State Controller to carry forward a balance in the Office of Treasurer of State, Debt Service - Treasury program.

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Part UUU requires that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services do the following.

1. It requires a review every five years of the state compensation plan for each class or position in the classified service.
2. It requires a study every four years comparing the salaries of state employees with salaries of employees performing comparable work and a submittal of a report by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and state and local government matters and the bargaining agents that represent a bargaining unit of state employees.
3. It requires a comprehensive review of the classification plan every 10 years to make modifications and improvements as determined necessary.
4. It requires the submission of a report by the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and state and local government matters and the bargaining agents that represent a bargaining unit of state employees on the comprehensive review of the classification and compensation system for employees of the executive branch of the State performed pursuant to a memorandum of agreement executed with the Maine Service Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989 on June 25, 2019, including a recalculation of the market salary report using current salary data.
5. It requires that good faith negotiations with the bargaining agents that represent a bargaining unit of state employees take place no later than January 31, 2024 to implement closing pay gaps between employees of this State and public and private employees performing comparable work in this State, other New England states and other states as appropriate.

This part also authorizes reimbursement of up to \$1,200,000 to the department to conduct the market pay study and to finalize the comprehensive review of the classification and compensation system by September 30, 2024.

Part VVV establishes the Maine Child Care Affordability Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to encompass the former child care subsidy program and establishes new eligibility for child care providers. It requires the department to submit reports to the Legislature regarding the distribution of child care subsidies and the development and implementation of an early childhood integrated data system. The department is also directed to amend its procedures regarding eligibility, promote the Maine Child Care Affordability Program, streamline and simplify the online invoicing and billing systems for child care providers and, by 2030, implement a program to achieve affordable child care.

Part WWW requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a treatment center for substance use disorder treatment in either Kennebec County or Washington County.

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Part XXX repeals the health care-related provisions of the service provider tax beginning January 1, 2025 and makes technical changes necessitated by this repeal to the revenue-sharing provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A as well as the revenue-sharing provisions and tax records confidentiality provisions in Title 36.

Part YYY does the following.

1. It requires the Child Development Services System to collaborate with special purpose private preschools to establish appropriate daily tuition rates for the educational services provided by each special purpose private preschool through a funding formula before the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.
2. It requires the Department of Education and the Child Development Services System provide payments for specially designed instruction provided by each special purpose private preschool at a rate of \$125 per day, per child, for scheduled school days in accordance with a child's individualized education program no later than the start of the 2023-2024 school year and prior to the provision of the daily tuition rate.
3. It transfers \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Child Development Services System for the estimated cost of the payments.
4. It directs the Department of Education to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, no later than December 15, 2023, on the development of the funding formula for the daily tuition rates, including recommendations and suggested legislation and authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Part ZZZ does the following.

1. It updates references to the United States Internal Revenue United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 contained in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36.
2. It changes the Maine standard deduction, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026 to maintain the Maine standard deduction at current levels.
3. It makes changes to current law governing the Maine dependent exemption tax credit to maintain the Maine dependent exemption tax credit at current levels for tax years 2026 and later.
4. It changes the pension deduction amount for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024 to the maximum annual benefit that may be received by a taxpayer at the eligible retirement age as of January 1st of the tax year under the federal Social Security Act.

Part AAAA establishes the Housing First Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the delivery of stabilization and support services to residents of properties established or developed to provide permanent housing to persons who have been experiencing

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chronic homelessness and to fund technical assistance, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, for the development of housing consistent with the program.

Part BBBB transfers \$3,500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Risk Management – Claims program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to pay attorney's fees or other costs awarded by a court against the State and its departments, agencies, officers or employees and settlements of attorney's fees or other costs without court award in these cases, which are not otherwise insured against under a deductible or self-insured retention program.

Part CCCC continues the voluntary employee incentive program through the 2024-2025 biennium.

Part DDDD authorizes the State Controller to carry forward, to be used for the same purposes, any unexpended balance of the \$550,000 appropriated in Public Law 2021, chapter 635 for the development and implementation of a new database for the Bureau of Agriculture's feed, seed and fertilizer program.

Part EEEE transfers \$2,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Statewide Hunger Relief Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide funds for a grant for capital support to a Portland-based food security hub with partnerships or capacity for statewide distribution to enable increased production of hot meals each day for homeless, sheltered or food insecure persons.

Part FFFF transfers \$1,500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time pandemic volatility payments to Maine milk producers who produced milk and reported production information to the Maine Milk Commission in calendar year 2022 and are currently participating in the dairy stabilization program.

Part GGGG authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer savings from the increased 10% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for MaineCare home and community-based services per the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Section 9817 from various General Fund MaineCare Program accounts to the Home and Community Based Services – ARP Savings Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Medical Care – Payments to Providers program and the Office of MaineCare Services program, Home and Community Based Services Admin – ARP Savings.

Part HHHH changes the definition of "memorandum of understanding" in the Maine Recovery Council laws to incorporate the agreement regarding the use of settlement funds from 2023.

Part IIII establishes a new special retirement plan for certain civilian employees in the Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police Crime Laboratory and computer crimes unit that allows those employees to retire after 25 years of service regardless of age. Provisions of Part IIII are also contained in LD 197 as engrossed.

Part JJJJ provides that the Commissioner of Education may apply unexpended balances from another program's appropriated amounts toward the adjustment for English learner budgetary

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hardships and removes the requirement that a school administrative unit petition the commissioner and demonstrate the budgetary hardship. It also allows the commissioner to determine that a school administrative unit is eligible for a hardship adjustment if the school administrative unit's unexpected enrollment increase results in an increase of 3% or more, instead of 5% or more as in current law, in English learner weighted allocation.

Part KKKK directs the Department of Education to develop a two-year pilot program to provide McKinney-Vento liaisons with access to emergency financial assistance funds for students at risk of homelessness. Provisions of Part KKKK are also contained in LD 1609 as engrossed.

Part LLLL This Part makes a technical change to the definition of “Active Duty” in MRSA 20-A, chapter 901: Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Part MMMM transfers \$9,600,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection and \$6,900,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund the Department of Health and Human Services for federal matching funds under federal water programs to be used for revolving loan funds for drinking water systems and wastewater treatment with any remaining funds to be used consistent with the respective programs. This part also authorizes unspent General Fund appropriations in the Department of Environmental Protection, Water Quality program and the Department of Health and Human Services Drinking Water Enforcement program to be carried forward.

Part NNNN allows the Efficiency Maine Trust to administer, rather than requiring the trust to oversee and administer, energy activities within the State that may be overseen by entities other than the trust. This Part also repeals an outdated effective date and makes a technical change.

Part OOOO creates the Community Resilience Partnership Program within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to provide technical and financial assistance for local and regional planning and implementation projects consistent with the State's emissions reduction targets and the state climate action plan.

Part PPPP authorizes the transfer by the Maine Health Data Organization of the uncommitted Personal Services line category balance to the All Other line category in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Part QQQQ requires that \$2,800,000 in unobligated balances from funds transferred to the Maine State Housing Authority, Housing Authority - State, Other Special Revenue Funds account to supplement the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funding in Public Law 2023, chapter 1, Part A be transferred to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than October 31, 2023.

Part RRRR transfers \$12,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority, Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide funds for short-term emergency housing, legal services and other wraparound settlement supports.

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Part SSSS transfers \$15,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority, Low-income Home Energy Assistance – MSHA, Other Special Revenue Funds account for the Low-Income Assistance Program to help low-income homeowners and renters pay for electricity costs by providing a credit on their electric bills. This funding will temporarily expand ratepayer eligibility for the Low-Income Assistance Program beyond the current 75% of the federal poverty limit, pursuant to the Public Utilities Commission formal solicitation of public input.

Part TTTT codifies the Baxter Counseling Services Program to facilitate the delivery of therapeutic counseling services for eligible former students of the Maine School for the Deaf or the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

Part UUUU increases the payment limit for the Family Caregiver Grant Pilot Program from \$2,000 annually to \$5,171 annually. Provisions of Part UUUU are also contained in LD 346 as engrossed.

Part VVVV authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer available balances of Personal Services appropriations to All Other in the Office for Family Independence program and the Office for Family Independence – District program for technology and related services.

Part WWWW does the following.

1. It transfers \$6,500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the MaineCare Stabilization Fund prior to the closing of fiscal year 2022-23.
2. It lapses \$20,000,000 of unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Health and Human Services, MaineCare General Fund carrying accounts, All Other line category to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund prior to the closing of fiscal year 2022-23.
3. It transfers the first \$28,500,000 from the MaineCare General Fund carrying accounts to the MaineCare Stabilization Fund at the close of fiscal year 2023-24.

Part XXXX eliminates budgeted transfers from the General Fund that were included in Public Law 2023, chapter 17 as a funding source for the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds account. The funding for 6 positions, associated All Other and reimbursements to attorneys is transitioned to a General Fund appropriation in Part A of this Act beginning in fiscal year 2024-25 to reflect the ongoing nature of the General Fund support for these costs in the commission's baseline budget.

Part YYYY transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances – General Fund account to the Resource Management Services – Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to provide matching funds for the construction of the Fryeburg shooting range.

Part ZZZZ increases the number of District Court judges by three headcount and Superior Court justices by one headcount and increases the number of District Court judges by an additional two headcount beginning July 1, 2024.

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Part AAAAA returns the position of Director, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation to the classified service when the position next becomes vacant.

Part BBBBB adds the position of Associate Commissioner to those positions that are appointed by the Commissioner of Labor.

Part CCCCC transfers \$2,750,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Labor, Employment Services Activity, Other Special Revenue Funds account for career exploration services targeted to high school students and recruitment and job-related supports targeted to groups that are underrepresented in the State's workforce.

Part DDDDD does the following.

1. It establishes the existing statewide Imagination Library of Maine Program in the Maine Revised Statutes.
2. It revises the role of the State Librarian in administering the Imagination Library of Maine Fund to more accurately reflect the role of the Maine State Library in administering and coordinating the Imagination Library of Maine Fund with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.
3. It requires the Maine State Library to provide an annual report to the Legislature regarding the Imagination Library of Maine Program and the number of books mailed to enrolled children.
4. It better aligns the Maine Revised Statutes with language included in the Memorandum of Agreement with The Dollywood Foundation, Inc.

Part EEEEE removes the asset test for eligibility for the elderly low-cost drug program and the Medicare savings program and establishes income eligibility for qualified Medicare beneficiaries at no more than 185% of the federal poverty level and for qualified individuals at more than 185% and no more than 250% of the federal poverty level.

Part FFFFF lapses \$40,000,000 of the unencumbered balance forward in the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General Fund account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund and transfers \$20,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the School Revolving Renovation Fund under the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

Part GGGGG establishes the Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Sustainability Program within the Department of Public Safety, to be administered by Maine Emergency Medical Services in consultation with the Emergency Medical Services' Board and the Department of Health and Human Services, and transfers \$31,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Sustainability Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account. Public Law 2023, chapter 438 broadened eligibility for grants under the program to all entities providing ambulance service or non-transporting emergency medical service or licensed emergency medical services training centers.

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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Part HHHHH transfers \$19,800,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Retirement Allowance Fund within the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to fund an additional one-time 3.0% retirement benefit payment.

Part IIIII authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services on behalf of the Department of the Secretary of State to enter into financing agreements in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for improvements to the Department of the Secretary of State's customer service system, technology infrastructure and data centers; updating of Department of the Secretary of State software and hardware; ongoing modernization of databases, storage and other components; and improved security of personally identifiable information and other confidential data.

Part JJJJJ transfers \$7,500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure Adaptation Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account for culverts, resilience and adaptation investments through municipal grants and matching funds.

Part KKKKK transfers \$12,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Multimodal Ports and Marine program, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Transportation to support the infrastructure necessary to deploy and connect floating offshore wind turbines in the Gulf of Maine.

Part LLLLL requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules to implement a MaineCare home and community-based lifespan program with initial enrollment targeted toward individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities or autism and a second phase allowing enrollment of individuals with other related conditions.

Part MMMMM authorizes the State Controller to keep open the official system of general accounts of State Government for fiscal year 2022-23 to make post-closing entries and adjustments to carry out the provisions of this legislation.

Part NNNNN authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to provide financial assistance under an extraordinary circumstance allowance to a nursing facility that meets certain requirements until the effective date of provider reimbursement rates for nursing facilities established in accordance with the department's rate-setting system and requires a summary report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 30, 2024.

Part OOOOO increases the State's contribution toward the retired teachers' share of health insurance premiums from 55% to 60% effective July 1, 2023.

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LD 424 An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 17 does the following.

Part A makes baseline appropriations and allocations and changes to the baseline for fiscal year 2023-24 and fiscal year 2024-25.

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

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 2023-24 and makes permanent a career and technical education middle school grant program.

Part D increases the attrition rate for the 2024-2025 biennium from 1.6% to 5% for judicial branch and executive branch departments and agencies. The attrition rate was further increased in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part ZZ.

Part E authorizes a one-time transfer at the close of fiscal year 2022-23 of all fund balances in excess of \$500,000 from total unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services and All Other line categories 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 F transfers \$3,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Healthy Soils Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account on or before June 30, 2024 to the the Maine Healthy Soils Program.

Part G transfers of \$2,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account on or before June 30, 2024.

Part H carries forward the remaining portion of one-time funding for the environmental closure activities at the former Maine Military Authority site in Limestone.

Part I allows the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to issue securities for building infrastructure necessary to support new or updated equipment to career and technical education centers and career and technical education regions and extends the date by which securities may be issued to June 30, 2025.

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

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Part K authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer available balances of appropriations between the MaineCare General Fund accounts until June 30, 2025.

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

Part M requires the Department of Health and Human Services to identify savings each fiscal year from MaineCare and MaineCare-related General Fund accounts to transfer to the Departmentwide program to offset deappropriations in that program made in this legislation.

Part N delays the beginning of the Fiscal Stability Program within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the 2026-2027 biennium.

Part O adds to the allowed purposes for issuing Maine Governmental Facilities Authority securities for the judicial branch to include acquiring and improving properties in Lewiston, Skowhegan and Augusta.

Part P moves the Board of Dental Practice, identified in statute as an affiliated board, into a licensure program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

Part Q transfers \$30,894,693 to the TransCap Trust Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 6006-G to pay the remaining debt service of the series 2015A and series 2021A bonds; and transfers \$14,910,476 from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Part R increases the Workers' Compensation Board's assessment cap to \$14,700,000 starting in fiscal year 2023-24.

Part S states that undeposited COVID Disaster Relief Payment Program checks are to be treated as unclaimed property not subject to the notice and receipt provisions established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 33, section 2101.

Part T transfers from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services, Other Special Revenue account \$9,246,702 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$9,279,076 in fiscal year 2024-25 to support the baseline allocation and \$12,506,910 in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to fund the cost of increasing billing rates for assigned legal counsel to \$150 per hour. These transfers were rescinded in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part XXXX.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

LD 760 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Signature Requirements on Issuance of General Fund Bonds

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 223 removes the requirement that registered bonds, unregistered bonds and minibonds issued by the Treasurer of State bear the signature or facsimile signature of the Governor.