

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

October 2018

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions of the 128<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

*CARRIED OVER*..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT*..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

*Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

**LD 1832**

**An Act To Implement Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation**

**Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|                   | ONTP<br>OTP-AM          |                           |

This bill implements the recommendation of the Right To Know Advisory Committee to clarify when members of public bodies may participate remotely in public proceedings of those bodies. The bill prohibits a body subject to the Freedom of Access Act from allowing its members to participate in its public proceedings through telephonic, video, electronic or other similar means of communication unless the body has adopted a written policy that authorizes remote participation in a manner that allows all members to simultaneously hear and speak to each other during the public proceeding and allows members of the public attending the public proceeding at the location identified in the meeting notice to hear all members of the body. If the policy allows remote participation in executive sessions, the policy must establish procedures and requirements that ensure the privacy of the executive session. The bill requires a quorum of the body to be physically present at the location identified in the meeting notice unless immediate action is imperative and physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practicable within the period of time requiring action. The bill requires that each member participating remotely identify all persons present at the remote location, that all votes be taken by roll call and that members participating remotely receive documents or other materials presented or discussed at the public proceeding in advance or when made available at the meeting, if the technology is available. The bill prohibits members who are not physically present at the meeting location from participating and voting in adjudicatory proceedings.

The bill prohibits the Legislature from allowing its members to participate in its public proceedings through telephonic, video, electronic or other similar means of communication, but allows the Finance Authority of Maine, the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority, the Maine State Housing Authority, the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, the Emergency Medical Services' Board and the Workers' Compensation Board to continue allowing remote participation at their public proceedings as currently authorized in law.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-735)**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It prohibits remote participation in executive session. It also prohibits a member who is participating remotely in a proceeding from voting on an issue that was discussed in executive session that immediately preceded the vote in the public proceeding.
2. It changes, for public bodies that consist of three or fewer members, the requirement that a quorum be physically present. It requires at least one member of the public body of three or fewer members to be physically present at the location identified in the meeting notice.
3. It requires that each member of a public body subject to the Freedom of Access Act be physically present in at least one public proceeding each year.
4. It requires that a state public body adopt its remote participation policy as a major substantive rule under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.
5. It authorizes municipalities and counties to impose stricter requirements than are provided in this amendment and allows municipalities and counties to prohibit the use of remote participation by any public body under their jurisdictions. The stricter requirements or the prohibition must be imposed through the adoption of an ordinance by

## *Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

the municipality or the county.

6. It provides that an elected public body may adopt a remote participation policy only after the constituency of the elected public body has voted to authorize the body to adopt the policy.

7. It provides, in Parts A and B, that the exemptions for the seven entities whose statutes currently provide for remote participation expire on July 1, 2022. Those entities will need to adopt policies that comply with the law to continue any remote participation.

8. It amends, in Part C, the Freedom of Access Act to require the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters to conduct a review of any proposed statutory authorization of remote participation or change in accessibility with respect to public proceedings.

**LD 1833     An Act To Facilitate Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by  
State and Local Government Entities**

**Accepted Majority  
(ONTP) Report**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>    | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| LOCKMAN L<br>MASON G | ONTP<br>OTP-AM          |                           |

This bill establishes prohibitions concerning restricting the sharing and use of immigration and citizenship information. It prohibits restricting the enforcement of federal immigration law. It establishes a complaint process and a duty to report.

This bill also provides that if the Attorney General, upon investigation, determines that a government entity is violating these prohibitions, the Attorney General must issue an opinion stating that finding. The government entity has 30 days to appeal the finding to the Superior Court. If the Superior Court agrees with the Attorney General, the court must immediately enjoin the policy or practice. The government entity that continues the policy or practice is subject to a \$500 fine for each day the policy or practice remains in effect. If the Superior Court disagrees with the Attorney General, the Attorney General must immediately certify that the government entity is in compliance with the law.

See also LD 366 in the First Regular Session.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-723)**

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-461)**

Under the bill, a government entity may not be limited or restricted from complying with an immigration detainer. This amendment limits that prohibition to immigration detainers that include written confirmation that the immigration detainer is based on probable cause.

This amendment was not adopted.