

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2019

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# STATE OF MAINE

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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 129<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 date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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 State and Local Government*

**LD 42**      **An Act To Provide for Nonpartisan Elections for the Office of District Attorney**      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CEBRA R	ONTP	

This bill requires that a district attorney be elected on a nonpartisan ballot and that a vacancy in the office be filled without regard to political affiliation. A candidate for district attorney must file by nomination petition and may not include party affiliation. The candidate is not required to unenroll from a party.

**LD 53**      **An Act To Clarify Local Referendum Ballots**      **PUBLIC 58**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANBORN H	OTP-AM	S-41

This bill requires municipalities, for all initiative and referendum questions listed on election ballots, use sequential capital letters of the alphabet and not sequential numbers as required by Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 906, subsection 7.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-41)**

This amendment allows, but does not require, municipal officers to use sequential capital letters for municipal initiative and referendum questions. This amendment clarifies that Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 906, subsection 7, is applicable to municipal initiative and referendum questions except for the sequential numbering requirement.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 58 permits municipalities to use sequential capital letters instead of sequential numbering for municipal initiative and referendum questions.

**LD 58**      **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Extend the Terms of Legislators to 4 Years**      **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NADEAU C CHENETTE J	ONTP OTP-AM	

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to increase the length of the terms of State Senators and members of the House of Representatives from 2 years to 4 years beginning in 2022.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-419)**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It increases the term of office for Representatives and Senators to include two 4-year terms and one 2-year term within 10-year cycles starting with the general election in 2022. To stagger terms within the 10-year cycle, the House and Senate districts are divided as equally as possible into 3 groups with terms as follows: the first group follows a cycle of one 4-year term followed by one 2-year term followed by one 4-year term; the second group follows a cycle of one 2-year term followed by two 4-year terms; and the third group follows a cycle of two 4-year terms followed by one 2-year term.