

# 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  
LABOR AND HOUSING**

August 2019

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# STATE OF MAINE

129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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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 Labor and Housing*

purporting to have the force of law under its home rule or other authority regulating earned paid leave.

10. It requires the Department of Labor to adopt routine technical rules to implement and enforce provisions regarding earned paid leave.

11. It specifies that earned paid leave does not apply to an employee covered by a collective bargaining agreement during the period between January 1, 2021 and the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement.

12. It requires the Department of Labor, beginning January 1, 2022 and annually thereafter, to report progress to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters.

**LD 402      An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIPPING R BELLOWS S		

This bill annually raises the minimum salary that an employee who works in an executive, administrative or professional capacity must earn in order for that employee to be exempt from the laws governing the minimum wage and overtime pay until it is \$55,224 on January 1, 2022. The bill provides for an annual adjustment, beginning January 1, 2023, based on the percentage annual increase in certain earnings as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

**LD 410      An Act To Eliminate the Subminimum Wage for Workers with Disabilities and Agricultural and Tipped Workers      INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROOKS H		

This bill eliminates current exemptions from the minimum wage law that allow the payment of wages at less than the minimum wage rate to individuals employed in certain agricultural jobs, to individuals employed in service jobs in which tipping is customary and to certain individuals with disabilities, effective October 1, 2019. This bill was not referred to committee.

**LD 415      An Act To Enhance the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VEROW A LIBBY N	ONTP	

This bill makes changes to the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program.

***Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing***

It makes enrollment in the program mandatory for a county or municipal law enforcement officer or municipal firefighter with a date of hire on or after January 1, 2020, and offers one-time open enrollment until July 1, 2020, to those officers and firefighters with a date of hire after November 1, 2006, who elected not to enroll.

It increases the employee contribution for participation in the program from 1.5 percent of gross wages to 2.5 percent and makes corresponding changes to the contribution requirements for retirees with less than five years of contributions upon retirement.

It allows a retiree to be eligible if the retiree is less than 50 years of age as long as the retiree has at least 25 years of service in a position as a county or municipal law enforcement officer or a municipal firefighter and has participated in the special consolidation retirement plan from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

It increases the state subsidy for the retiree's share of the costs of health insurance coverage from 45 percent to 100 percent.

It requires that all retirees be provided health insurance coverage through the group health plan provided to state employees beginning January 1, 2020.

While LD 415 was voted "Ought Not to Pass," a related bill included provisions making changes to the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program. See LD 1674, An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program, which was enacted as Public Law 2019, chapter 446.

**LD 425      An Act To Strengthen Small Businesses in Rural Maine by Changing the Minimum Wage      Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITE D FARRIN B	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill sets the minimum wage at \$10 per hour and removes the provision that requires the minimum wage to be increased annually by the increase, if any, in the cost of living.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-85)**

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

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 462      An Act To Provide Paid Family Leave to Public School Employees      Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T MILLETT R		