

# 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 HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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 Health and Human Services

It removes the civil penalties for noncompliance and removes the exemption based on religious tenets and practices. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules, including, but not limited to, creating and making publicly available a brochure about the medical benefits and risks of administering the prophylactic ophthalmic ointment and vitamin K injection and providing a form on which a parent can refuse the prophylactic ophthalmic ointment and vitamin K injection for the infant of that parent. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its newborn blood spot screening refusal form to include a section permitting a parent to refuse the prophylactic ophthalmic ointment and vitamin K injection for the infant of that parent.

### LD 447 An Act Regarding the Substance Use Disorder Continuum of Care

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRATWICK G MCCREIGHT J	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to provide support for persons with substance use disorder along a continuum of care that includes prevention, law enforcement diversion, treatment, harm reduction and recovery. The bill proposes to provide:

1. Funding for programs that reduce the use of marijuana and so-called "vaping" by youth in Maine in order to reduce the likelihood of neural pathway changes that can lead to addiction later in life;
2. Ongoing support for detoxification as a path to recovery;
3. Reimbursement under the MaineCare program for substance use disorder peer recovery coaches;
4. Funding to the Bangor Area Recovery Network for addiction recovery support;
5. Support for regional 2-1-1 hotlines to offer referrals to persons with substance use disorder for local services; and
6. Access to evidence-based approaches to prevent substance use and treat substance use disorder in rural areas.

### LD 459 An Act Regarding Presumptive Eligibility and Homelessness under the General Assistance Laws

PUBLIC 515

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN B	OTP-AM ONTP	S-215 S-363 BREEN C

This bill defines "homelessness" for the purposes of the laws governing general assistance and specifies that a person experiencing or facing homelessness who meets the conditions for receiving emergency assistance in current law is eligible for emergency general assistance.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (S-215)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, changes the definition of "homelessness" in the bill to remove references to a need for permanent or safe housing. It adds a requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse a municipality 100% of direct general assistance costs after a person has spent 90 consecutive nights homeless or in an emergency shelter for the homeless. It also establishes presumptive eligibility for general assistance for 30 days for persons who are provided shelter at emergency shelters for the homeless and specifies that no other municipality may be determined to be the municipality of responsibility during that 30-day

***Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services***

period. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a work group of stakeholders to examine the municipal general assistance program and report findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 2, 2020.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-363)**

This amendment removes the language requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse a municipality 100% of direct general assistance costs after a person has spent 90 consecutive nights homeless or living in an emergency shelter for the homeless.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 515 defines "homelessness" for the purposes of the laws governing general assistance and specifies that a person experiencing or facing homelessness who meets the conditions for receiving emergency assistance in current law is eligible for emergency general assistance. It also establishes presumptive eligibility for general assistance for 30 days for persons who are provided shelter at emergency shelters for the homeless and specifies that no other municipality may be determined to be the municipality of responsibility during that 30-day period. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to establish a work group of stakeholders to examine the municipal general assistance program and report findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 2, 2020.

**LD 463      An Act To Reduce Obesity Rates in Maine**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T SANBORN L	ONTP	

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a comprehensive state plan relating to the reduction of unhealthy weight and obesity. The plan must include coordination of activities within the Department of Health and Human Services and among state departments, efforts to monitor rates of unhealthy weight and obesity, including a survey of food and drink consumption and physical exercise, and a media plan to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks. The department is required to submit the plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than January 1, 2020 and every two years thereafter. The bill also includes a position within the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, or contracted for by the department, as a coordinator of the state plan. The bill also appropriates funds to develop and implement the plan, to improve surveillance and epidemiology related to obesity and to fund one Obesity Care Coordinator position in the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

**LD 472      An Act To Provide Meals to Homebound Individuals**

**Died On  
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MATLACK A MIRAMANT D	OTP-AM	H-12

This bill provides for the appropriation of funding to provide meals to homebound individuals. This bill also establishes a work group to research food access barriers and make recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services about how to leverage resources to ensure regular, adequate nutrition for homebound individuals in the State and to forecast future demand and identify the appropriate level of funding in the future.