

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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 TAXATION**

August 2019

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. BEN CHIPMAN, CHAIR  
SEN. HEATHER SANBORN  
SEN. MATTHEW POULIOT

REP. RYAN TIPPING, CHAIR  
REP. STEPHEN S. STANLEY  
REP. MAUREEN FITZGERALD TERRY  
REP. KRISTEN SARA CLOUTIER  
REP. DIANE M. DENK  
REP. ANN HIGGINS MATLACK  
REP. DONALD G. MAREAN  
REP. BRUCK A. BICKFORD  
REP. HAROLD TREY STEWART\*  
REP. THEODORE JOSEPH KRYZAK, JR.  
REP. PHILIP CURTIS\*

**STAFF:**

JULIE JONES, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW  
5 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0005  
(207) 287-1635  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/ofpr>

\*Committee member for a portion of the session

# STATE OF MAINE

129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## 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 Taxation*

**LD 146      An Act To Make the Assessment and Collection of Personal Property Taxes Optional for Municipalities      ONTP**

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

This bill allows a municipality, by referendum, to exempt all personal property located in that municipality from assessment and collection of tax by that municipality.

See also LD 824.

**LD 156      An Act To Allow Regional Service Center Municipalities To Assess an Additional One Percent Sales Tax for Infrastructure Costs      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D	ONTP	

This bill allows a municipality that is a service center community to impose a local option sales tax of no more than 1% by local referendum for the purpose of funding local infrastructure costs.

See also LDs 65, 609, 1110 and 1254.

**LD 162      An Act To Eliminate the State Income Tax on Maine Public Employees Retirement System Pensions      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BELLOWS S DOORE D		

Retirement benefits under state, local or federal government retirement plans that are based on employment compensation for which contributions are not made to the federal Social Security system result in reductions in the amount of Social Security benefits that a retiree is eligible to receive under the federal windfall elimination provision. This bill provides a state income tax exemption for those retirement benefits.

See also LDs 276 and 1019.

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

**LD 163      An Act Regarding Property Tax Relief for Veterans      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARRIN B HANINGTON S		

This bill provides enhanced property tax exemptions for certain veterans. A veteran regardless of age becomes eligible for a \$25,000 exemption if the veteran has served at least 90 days of active service and has served in a

## *Joint Standing Committee on Taxation*

combat zone. A veteran with a service-connected disability becomes eligible for a \$50,000 exemption if the disability is rated 50% to 90% and a \$100,000 exemption if the disability is rated 100%. A surviving unremarried spouse, minor child or parent who is receiving a pension based on the service of a deceased veteran qualifies for the same exemption the veteran would have been eligible for. A municipality is reimbursed for the constitutionally mandated 50% of the property tax revenue loss as a result of the enhanced exemption.

See also LDs 1042, 1194, 1271 and 1326.

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

### **LD 164      An Act To Reduce Property Taxes for Maine Residents**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT M PIERCE T	OTP-AM	S-231

This bill increases the total exemption under the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption program to \$50,000 for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2020. This bill also increases state reimbursement to municipalities for homestead property tax exemptions from 62.5% to 100% for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2020.

#### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-231)**

This amendment increases the homestead property tax exemption to \$30,000 instead of \$50,000 as in the bill and requires municipalities to include a statement on tax bills regarding the availability of the homestead tax exemption and providing information on how to apply. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Part H of the biennial budget, PL 2019, c. 343 increased the homestead exemption from \$20,000 to \$25,000 and state reimbursement to municipalities from 62.5% to 70%.

See also LDs 35, 77, 837, 1172, 1234 and 1448.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

### **LD 193      An Act To Fully Fund and Restore State-Municipal Revenue Sharing**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HARNETT T	OTP-AM OTP-AM	H-260 S-174    CHIPMAN B

This bill restores state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% from 2% on January 1, 2019, six months earlier than currently provided in law.

#### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-260)**

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

#### **Committee Amendment "B" (H-261)**