

# 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 AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment expands the membership of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine by adding two members who are grower representatives and requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to formally call for nominations for grower representative members. The amendment clarifies the requirements governing grower representative members and processor representative members. The amendment prohibits former employees of the commission from serving as paid lobbyists for wild blueberry businesses for a period of one year following employment by the commission. The amendment also allows members of the University of Maine System Wild Blueberry Advisory Committee to be reappointed for additional terms.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 186 expands the membership of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine by adding two members who are grower representatives and requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to formally call for nominations for grower representative members. The law clarifies the requirements governing grower representative members and processor representative members. The law prohibits former employees of the commission from serving as paid lobbyists for wild blueberry businesses for a period of one year following employment by the commission. The law also allows members of the University of Maine System Wild Blueberry Advisory Committee to be reappointed for additional terms.

**LD 169      An Act To Provide Occupants of Motor Vehicles with Gold Star Family Registration Plates Free Entry to State Parks and Historic Sites      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHEATS B CARSON B	OTP-AM	H-13

This bill provides for free entry to state parks, camping areas and beaches for those persons who have gold star family registration plates on their motor vehicles and for passengers in those vehicles.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**

This amendment clarifies that free entry to state parks and historic sites for a person displaying gold star family registration plates is for day use only.

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 199      An Act To Create the Water Resources Planning Committee      PUBLIC 67**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SYLVESTER M JACKSON T	OTP-AM	H-87

This bill establishes the Water Resources Planning Committee within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill describes requirements related to committee membership, meetings and reporting. It details three phases on which the committee is required to focus effort. It also requires the committee to conduct an annual review of state policy in regard to water resources, provide guidance to municipalities and develop and disseminate educational materials on water resources and the regulatory regime.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-87)**

This amendment adds to committee membership personnel from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Agricultural Water Management Board and a member of the public with expertise in stormwater

***Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry***

management or wastewater management. The amendment strikes the requirement that a member of the public with expertise in water advocacy serves on the committee. The amendment strikes the requirement that the committee focus on developing a strategy for protecting and managing groundwater resources in this State if worldwide clean water resources are threatened. The amendment also strikes phases two and three in which the committee is required to focus effort.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 67 establishes the Water Resources Planning Committee within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The law describes requirements related to committee membership, meetings and reporting. It also requires the committee to conduct an annual review of state policy in regard to water resources, provide guidance to municipalities and develop and disseminate educational materials on water resources and the regulatory regime.

**LD 204      An Act To Provide Funding for a Ranger Pilot Position in the Maine Forest Service      PUBLIC 422**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY M DILL J	OTP-AM ONTP	H-66

This bill provides funding for a Ranger Pilot position and associated costs in the forest protection unit in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-66)**

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

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 422 provides funding for a Ranger Pilot position and associated costs in the forest protection unit in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry.

**LD 233      An Act To Move the Bureau of Parks and Lands from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SKOLFIELD T BLACK R	ONTP	

This bill, which is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposes to move the Bureau of Parks and Lands from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

**LD 269      An Act To Match the State's Definition of "Hemp" to the Definition in Federal Law      Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

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