

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

August 2019

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129TH 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 129th 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 129th 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 Veterans and Legal Affairs

LD 256 An Act To Ensure Responsible Operation of Political Action Committees

PUBLIC 21

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHENETTE J SCHNECK J	OTP-AM ONTP	S-6

Current law prohibits a political action committee from compensating a Legislator or a business owned or operated by the legislator if the legislator is a principal officer or treasurer of the committee or one of the individuals primarily responsible for raising contributions or making decisions for the committee. This bill further prohibits such a political action committee from making loans or gifts to a business owned or operated by the legislator and prohibits commingling the funds of such a political action committee with the personal funds of the legislator or the funds of a business owned or operated by the legislator.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-6)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and changes the title of the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 21 prohibits certain political action committees from making loans or gifts to a business owned or operated by a legislator and from commingling committee funds with the personal funds of a legislator or the funds of a business owned or operated by a legislator. The prohibitions in Public Law 2019, chapter 21 apply to a political action committee if the relevant legislator is a principal officer or treasurer of the political action committee or if the relevant legislator is one of the individuals primarily responsible for raising contributions for the political action committee.

LD 272 An Act To Allow Voting by Mail

ONTP

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

This bill requires that, beginning November 1, 2020, all primary and general elections for President of the United States, United States Senator, United States Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senator and State Representative as well as all elections on people's veto questions, initiated measures, bond issues, constitutional amendments and other legislatively proposed referenda be conducted by mail. The bill also establishes the Commission to Implement Voting by Mail to make recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, which may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature for implementing voting by mail.

LD 293 An Act Regarding Early Voting in Person

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T BREEN C	ONTP	

This bill allows for municipalities to conduct early voting in person during the same period as is permitted for absentee voting. Early voting takes place in the municipal offices with the same requirements and restrictions regarding voting places, voting booths, ballot boxes and ballot challenges as apply to regular voting. At the end of

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

early voting, the municipal clerk delivers the sealed ballot boxes to the voting place as presently required by law. Compare LD 619.

**LD 294 An Act To Require the Fiscal Impact Estimate of a Direct Initiative of ONTP
Legislation To Be Included on the Ballot**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MORRIS J	ONTP	

This bill provides that a ballot for a statewide vote on a direct initiative must include a summary of the fiscal impact estimate prepared by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review for that direct initiative.

**LD 322 An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Accepted Majority
Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting (ONTP) Report**

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

This bill requires that a voter provide proof of identity with photographic identification approved by the Secretary of State by rule for the purpose of voting.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-94)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill and adds a mandate preamble. The amendment requires that a voter provide proof of identity with photographic identification for the purpose of voting. The amendment specifies the types of photographic identification that may be used to verify the identity of a voter. It provides that a person who does not present photographic identification may cast a provisional ballot and establishes the process for provisional voting. Under this process, if the person can verify the person's identity to the municipal clerk, deputy clerk or warden or an election clerk within three business days of the election by presenting acceptable photographic identification, the ballot will be cast as a regular ballot. Through the general election of 2020, a person who does not present acceptable photographic identification but is known to a municipal clerk, registrar or election official at the voting place may cast a regular ballot upon submission of an affidavit by the municipal clerk, registrar or election official attesting to the person's identity. Finally, the amendment requires the Secretary of State to provide, at no fee, nondriver identification cards to eligible persons who do not have another form of acceptable photographic identification to verify identity for the purpose of voting.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 352 An Act Regarding Licensing Fees for Certain Tournament Games PUBLIC 63

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SKOLFIELD T BLACK R	OTP-AM ONTP	H-95

This bill waives the license fees for game of chance tournaments with fewer than 50 players conducted by veterans' organizations.