

# 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 COVERAGE,  
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

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 Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services*

**LD 367**      **An Act To Amend the Definition of "Insurer" under the Maine  
Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act**

**Leave to Withdraw  
Pursuant to Joint  
Rule**

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

This bill removes multiple-employer welfare arrangements from the definition of "insurer" under the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act.

**LD 368**      **An Act To Redefine Geographic Association for Multiple-employer  
Welfare Arrangements**

**PUBLIC 96**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FOLEY R PERKINS M	OTP-AM	S-49

This bill replaces the requirement that a multiple-employer welfare arrangement based on geographic association must be established by an association with a principal office in a location within a 40-mile radius of the principal place of business of eligible employers with a requirement that the arrangement must be established by an association with a principal office located in the State.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-49)**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment repeals the provision authorizing a multiple-employer welfare arrangement based on geographic association and removes cross-references to that provision. The amendment authorizes a multiple-employer welfare arrangement by an association with employer members representing multiple trades, industries or professions. The amendment also restores the ability of the Superintendent of Insurance to authorize a separate community rate for fully insured association health plans for multiple employers.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 96 repeals the provision authorizing a multiple-employer welfare arrangement based on geographic association and removes cross-references to that provision. The law authorizes a multiple-employer welfare arrangement by an association with employer members representing multiple trades, industries or professions. The law also restores the ability of the Superintendent of Insurance to authorize a separate community rate for fully insured association health plans for multiple employers.

**LD 376**      **An Act To Expand Health Insurance Options for Town Academies**

**PUBLIC 424**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M DOW D	OTP-AM	H-199

This bill makes an employee of an academy approved for tuition purposes in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, sections 2951 to 2955 eligible for coverage under the group health plan available to state employees and other eligible persons.

# Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

## Committee Amendment "A" (H-199)

This amendment specifies that a town academy that elects to enroll in the group health plan available to state employees and other eligible persons may enroll in the group health plan on the first day of the month following the termination of the academy's prior group health plan, but no sooner than January 1, 2020. For an employee hired after January 1, 2020 or who becomes eligible for the group health plan based on a qualifying life event occurring after January 1, 2020, the employee may enroll in the group health plan on the first day of the month after the date on which the employee becomes eligible for enrollment.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 424 makes an employee of an academy approved for tuition purposes in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, sections 2951 to 2955 eligible for coverage under the group health plan available to state employees and other eligible persons.

The law specifies that a town academy that elects to enroll in the group health plan available to state employees and other eligible persons may enroll in the group health plan on the first day of the month following the termination of the academy's prior group health plan, but no sooner than January 1, 2020. For an employee hired after January 1, 2020 or who becomes eligible for the group health plan based on a qualifying life event occurring after January 1, 2020, the employee may enroll in the group health plan on the first day of the month after the date on which the employee becomes eligible for enrollment.

## **LD 407      An Act To Promote Universal Health Care, Including Dental, Vision and      ONTP** **Hearing Care**

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

This bill establishes a single-payer health care system in the State, effective July 1, 2022, that finances health care services for most Maine residents. The bill directs the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial services matters to jointly submit during the 2019 legislative interim legislation to fully implement the single-payer system.

See also related bills, LD 1611 and LD 1617.

## **LD 429      An Act To Improve the Ability of Mental Health Professionals To Assess      ONTP** **the Risk of Suicide**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEEBE-CENTER P VITELLI E	ONTP	

This bill adds a new requirement for the renewal of professional licenses for psychologists, social workers and licensed clinical professional counselors that each must show proof upon renewal that the licensee has completed a minimum of 6 hours of course work every 10 years in suicide prevention, evidence-based suicide risk assessment or the treatment and management of suicidal persons, including knowledge of community resources and cultural factors. These courses may be used to satisfy the licensee's other continuing education requirements. The bill also changes, from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2022, the date that licensed clinical professional counselors must begin demonstrating successful completion of a minimum of 12 hours of course work in family or intimate partner