

# 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 HEALTH COVERAGE,  
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

August 2019

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. HEATHER B. SANBORN, CHAIR  
SEN. GEOFFREY M. GRATWICK  
SEN. ROBERT A. FOLEY

REP. DENISE A. TEPLER, CHAIR  
REP. MICHAEL F. BRENNAN  
REP. ANNE MARIE MASTRACCIO  
REP. HEIDI E. BROOKS\*  
REP. GINA M. MELARAGNO  
REP. VICTORIA FOLEY  
REP. DWAYNE W. PRESCOTT  
REP. MARK JOHN BLIER  
REP. JOSHUA MORRIS  
REP. GREGORY LEWIS SWALLOW  
REP. H. SCOTT LANDRY, JR.\*

**STAFF:**

COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

\*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 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 Hearing Care**      **ONTP**

<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 the Risk of Suicide**      **ONTP**

<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

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

violence.

**LD 437      An Act To Improve Access to and Affordability of Health Care in Maine      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT M HUBBELL B	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to improve access to and affordability of health care in Maine.

See also related bill, LD 51.

**LD 477      An Act To Provide Relief to Federal Employees Affected by a Federal Shutdown      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T GIDEON S	OTP-AM ONTP	S-1

This bill establishes the Federal Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program. The program, administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, provides easier access to no-interest loans for certain federal employees in Maine affected by the partial shutdown of the Federal Government, which began December 22, 2018, by guaranteeing up to 10% of the loans eligible credit unions and financial institutions make to affected employees.

Under the bill, affected employees are eligible for up to 3 loans, each equal to their monthly after-tax pay, up to \$5,000, less unemployment benefits. The bill prohibits interest on the loans during the shutdown and for 270 days after the shutdown ends. Following the end of the 270 days, an eligible financial institution that made a loan under the program, after a good faith effort to collect the principal amount of the loan, may apply to the authority for repayment of the uncollected amount of the loan in default. The authority is required to make reasonable efforts to recoup the amount of any payments made to eligible financial institutions from the employee who defaulted on the loan.

The bill gives the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs authority to report out legislation to address any funding needs of the program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-1)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. This amendment:

1. Amends the definition of "shutdown" to mean a full or partial shutdown of the Federal Government between February 15, 2019 and December 31, 2019 that lasts longer than 14 days;
2. Adds language to require that any unexpended funds be returned to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund upon the termination of the program;
3. Amends the definition of a credit union or financial institution in good standing to mean a credit union or financial institution insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration;