

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 HEALTH COVERAGE,
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

August 2019

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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 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;