

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 TRANSPORTATION

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 Transportation

This bill requires the Department of Transportation, by rule, to establish ferry tolls for each route of travel that are based upon the cost of service for vehicles, freight and passengers, and allows the department to provide discounted tolls for frequent usage of the Maine State Ferry Service. This bill also requires that the Marine Highway account must fund 100% of the capital costs and no more than 75% of the operating costs of the Maine State Ferry Service.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 389 An Act To Require Biennial State Motor Vehicle Inspections ONTP

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

This bill changes noncommercial automobile inspection requirements from an annual inspection to a biennial inspection.

LD 422 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Increase the Number of Signs on the Mt. Katahdin Trail Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS N		

This resolve requires the Department of Transportation to develop a plan to increase the number of directional and identification signs on the Mt. Katahdin Trail and to submit the plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by January 1, 2020.

LD 436 Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State To Review Standards for Vision Tests ONTP

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

This resolve requires the Secretary of State to review the standards for vision tests under the laws governing driver's licenses and to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

LD 458 An Act To Require Motorists To Yield to Transit Buses PUBLIC 194

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN B	OTP-AM	S-129

This bill requires an operator of a vehicle to yield the right-of-way to a transit bus traveling in the same direction if the transit bus has signaled and is reentering the traffic flow from a bus stop or shoulder of the roadway.

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Committee Amendment "A" (S-129)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment requires that the operator of a vehicle on a public way that has a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less must yield the right-of-way to a transit bus that has an illuminated yield sign on the left side of the rear of the bus and the bus driver has activated a turn signal to reenter the traffic flow from a bus stop or shoulder on the roadway. The amendment also clarifies the definition of "transit bus."

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 194 requires that the operator of a vehicle on a public way that has a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less must yield the right-of-way to a transit bus that has an illuminated yield sign on the left side of the rear of the bus and the bus driver has activated a turn signal to reenter the traffic flow from a bus stop or shoulder on the roadway.

LD 466 An Act To Create a Diesel Fuel Tax Differential ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TEPLER D CHIPMAN B	ONTP	

This bill imposes an additional 5¢ per gallon fuel tax on diesel fuel and requires that revenue from the tax be used only for construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of public highways and bridges. The additional tax is repealed on November 1, 2022. The Commissioner of Transportation is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by March 1, 2022 identifying the amount of revenue collected and the purposes for which the revenue was or will be used. The committee is authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature to retain, repeal or amend provisions relating to the diesel fuel tax differential.

LD 478 An Act To Allow All-terrain Vehicles To Be Used on a Public Way ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T	ONTP	

This bill, beginning in 2020, allows the operation of an all-terrain vehicle, or ATV, on a public way as long as the ATV is registered and meets specified safety equipment requirements and the operator is licensed and has insurance. This bill establishes an annual registration fee of \$33, the same as for ATVs under current law. The bill does not affect the operation of ATVs off of public ways.

This bill prohibits the operation of an ATV on a public way with a posted speed limit of more than 50 miles per hour.

The Department of Transportation may adopt rules or a municipality or county may adopt an ordinance to restrict or prohibit the operation of an ATV on a way if the department, county or municipality determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary in the interest of public safety.