

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
LABOR AND HOUSING**

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 Labor and Housing

It makes enrollment in the program mandatory for a county or municipal law enforcement officer or municipal firefighter with a date of hire on or after January 1, 2020, and offers one-time open enrollment until July 1, 2020, to those officers and firefighters with a date of hire after November 1, 2006, who elected not to enroll.

It increases the employee contribution for participation in the program from 1.5 percent of gross wages to 2.5 percent and makes corresponding changes to the contribution requirements for retirees with less than five years of contributions upon retirement.

It allows a retiree to be eligible if the retiree is less than 50 years of age as long as the retiree has at least 25 years of service in a position as a county or municipal law enforcement officer or a municipal firefighter and has participated in the special consolidation retirement plan from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

It increases the state subsidy for the retiree's share of the costs of health insurance coverage from 45 percent to 100 percent.

It requires that all retirees be provided health insurance coverage through the group health plan provided to state employees beginning January 1, 2020.

While LD 415 was voted "Ought Not to Pass," a related bill included provisions making changes to the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program. See LD 1674, An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program, which was enacted as Public Law 2019, chapter 446.

LD 425 An Act To Strengthen Small Businesses in Rural Maine by Changing the Minimum Wage **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITE D FARRIN B	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill sets the minimum wage at \$10 per hour and removes the provision that requires the minimum wage to be increased annually by the increase, if any, in the cost of living.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-85)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 462 An Act To Provide Paid Family Leave to Public School Employees **Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T MILLETT R		

Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

This bill provides that a full-time employee of a school administrative unit is entitled to up to 12 weeks of paid family medical leave and may not be required to use sick or other kinds of leave for the birth of the employee's child or the employee's domestic partner's child or for the placement of a child 16 years of age or less with the employee or the employee's domestic partner in connection with the adoption of the child by the employee or the employee's domestic partner. The bill also provides that the employer and employee may negotiate whether leave is taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule.

LD 467 An Act To Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Creditable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States under the State Retirement System CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PEOPLES A SANBORN L	OTP-AM ONTP	H-550

This bill amends the state retirement system laws governing creditable service for service in the United States Armed Forces to provide credit for service during operations in Lebanon, August 21, 1982, to February 26, 1984; operations in Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15, 1983; and operations in Panama, December 21, 1989, to February 13, 1990.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-550)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 473 An Act To Allow Flexibility in Residential Rental Agreements Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill repeals the limit on security deposits on residential rental units.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-150)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes the bill and replaces it with a provision specifying that the limit on security deposits on residential rental units does not apply to prepaid rent.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 480 An Act To Ensure Pay Transparency and To Reduce Gender and Racial Wage Inequities ONTP

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