

# 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  
LABOR AND HOUSING**

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 Labor and Housing***

**LD 580      An Act To Improve the Advocate Program Established by the Workers' Compensation Board      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SYLVESTER M	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to strengthen representation for injured workers and improve the advocate program established under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.

While LD 580 was voted "Ought Not to Pass," a provision directing the Workers' Compensation Board to study issues related to the advocate program was included in LD 756, An Act To Improve the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992. See LD 756, which was enacted as Public Law 2019, chapter 344.

**LD 584      An Act To Convert Stipends to Base Pay for Child Protective Workers      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GATTINE D BELLOWS S	ONTP	

This bill requires that the \$5 per wage-hour stipends provided to child protective services employees in the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services for the purpose of recruitment and retention of such employees and the \$1 per wage-hour stipend paid to such child protective services employees who hold or obtain a relevant master's degree must be considered part of the base pay of employees who receive a stipend for purposes of calculating retirement benefits.

**LD 591      An Act To Create Flexibility in Affordable Housing Calculations      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SYLVESTER M	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to allow exemptions in the calculation of the affordable housing cap for per unit expenditures.

**LD 596      An Act To Prevent the Closure of Maine Businesses      ONTP**

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

This bill requires that a person proposing to permanently shut down an industrial or commercial facility make an offer of sale, at fair market value, of the facility and equipment to an interested employee organization or to a privately owned business entity, government-owned business entity or jointly owned business entity.