

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

LD 600 An Act To Achieve Mental Health Parity in Workers' Compensation ONTP

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

This bill changes the standard of proof required to demonstrate entitlement to compensation for a mental injury caused by stress so that it is the same standard as is required with respect to physical injuries. In addition, this bill specifies that a work-related injury that aggravates a preexisting mental condition may result in a compensable disability, just as aggravating a preexisting physical condition may.

LD 601 An Act To Create Fairness by Reinstating the Cost-of-living Adjustment for Workers' Compensation Benefits ONTP

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

This bill establishes cost-of-living adjustments for workers' compensation benefits. Prior to the 1992 revision of the laws governing workers' compensation, benefits for total incapacity were adjusted annually based on the percentage increase or decrease in the state average weekly wage.

While LD 601 was voted "Ought Not to Pass," a similar provision to establish cost-of-living adjustments for certain injured workers 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 612 An Act To Promote Youth Employment Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRADSTREET D GUERIN S	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill establishes a minimum hourly wage for persons who are 16 or 17 years of age that is \$1 per hour less than the regular minimum hourly wage, a minimum hourly wage for persons who are 15 years of age that is \$2 per hour less than the regular minimum hourly wage and a minimum hourly wage for persons who are 14 years of age and under that is \$3 per hour less than the regular minimum hourly wage.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-80)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This amendment was not adopted.