

# 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 INNOVATION,  
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT  
AND BUSINESS**

August 2019

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**STAFF:**

SAMUEL SENFT, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

\*Committee member for a portion of the session

# 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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business**

**LD 532      Resolve, Directing Professional Licensing and Certification Boards To Study the Barriers To Obtaining Professional Licensure and Certification      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MORALES V BELLOWS S	ONTP	

This resolve directs each professional licensing and certification board under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, in consultation with the Department of the Attorney General, to undertake a thorough review of its rules and procedures and survey its licensees and certificate holders and applicants for licensure or certification to research barriers to obtaining licensure and certification, including existing deficiencies in reciprocity provisions.

This resolve directs each board to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business by January 15, 2020 with its findings and any proposed changes to its rules and procedures. The joint standing committee is directed to review and suggest alterations to the licensing and certification boards, which may promulgate rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation related to any report under this section to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

**LD 570      An Act To Create an Airplane Mechanic Education Program      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARDONE B GRATWICK G	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to develop a program to train and educate individuals for a career in aircraft mechanics and maintenance.

**LD 624      An Act To Facilitate the Purchase of Textbooks for Low-income College Students      ONTP**

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

This bill allows the Finance Authority of Maine, which administers the Maine State Grant Program, to award postsecondary students an additional \$500 grant per year over the current minimum \$1,000 grant. The \$500 is to be used for the cost of textbooks required for courses in which the student is enrolled. Awardees must meet the same need and residency criteria as is required by the standard Maine State Grant Program.

**LD 647      An Act To Attract, Educate and Retain New State Residents To Strengthen the Workforce      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLOUTIER K LIBBY N	OTP-AM ONTP	H-556

## ***Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business***

This bill does the following.

1. It establishes and provides funding for the Welcome Center Initiative to establish welcome centers within the adult education programs of participating school administrative units in municipalities or regions of the State that have immigrant populations or that have industries that are experiencing a shortage of trained workers. The purpose of welcome centers is to educate, provide career planning, case management and vocational training for foreign-trained workers, including foreign-trained professionals, and match workers with employers.
2. It provides ongoing funding for the New Mainers Resource Center in Portland.
3. It directs the Department of Education to establish a welcome center under the Welcome Center Initiative within the City of Lewiston's adult education program to attract, educate and retain in employment foreign-trained workers, patterned after the New Mainers Resource Center in Portland, and provides funding for that purpose.
4. It directs and provides funding for the Department of Education's office of adult education and family literacy to administer a two-year program to prepare immigrants for identified workforce needs of employers in the State, with the goal of accelerating entry into livable wage employment and enhancing employer retention of immigrants. The program will offer vocation-specific English language acquisition with training in specific vocational areas at the workplace. Program awards are to be established through a statewide competitive grant process.

The office is required to prepare a report describing the number of grants awarded, the training and services provided by the grant recipients, aggregate demographic information about participants and employers and an evaluation of programs and services most effective in carrying out the purposes of the program. The report must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by November 4, 2021. The committee may report out a bill based upon the report in the 130th Legislature.

5. It directs and provides funding for the Department of Education office of adult education and family literacy to establish a two-year local community planning support program to assist communities within the State to provide a planning process for communities to provide English language acquisition and training in vocational skills, identify employers or areas that would benefit from immigrant residency or employment and cultivate community support to integrate immigrants into the communities and local workforce.

The office is required to establish a grant process to carry out the purposes of the program and to prepare a report describing the grantees, grants amounts and an evaluation of the outcomes and effectiveness of the grant on the target communities. The report must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by December 5, 2020. The committee may report out a bill based upon the report in the 130th Legislature.

6. It directs and provides funding for the Department of Education office of adult education and family literacy to develop and implement a grant process to provide funding on a competitive basis for English language acquisition to adult education programs in communities experiencing an increase in immigrant populations or demand to reduce the waiting list for English language acquisition classes and to increase the level of English language acquisition instruction.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-556)**

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. This amendment does the following.

1. It makes it clear that the coordinator of a welcome center may secure funding both to support ongoing operations of the welcome center and to expand capacity.

***Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business***

2. It removes the requirement that vocation-specific training and English language classes offered under the workforce training program be offered at the workplace and replaces it with language stating that the employers are to provide the time and space for classes on site, but whenever this is not feasible, employers are to provide at no cost to the employees supports such as transportation and incentives to prioritize, encourage and facilitate employee contribution.
3. It provides additional detail regarding the employees eligible for the workforce training and English language acquisition program. To be eligible, employees must be participating potential, newly hired or incumbent employees. It adds descriptions of incumbent and potential employees.
4. It further describes the program elements of the local community planning support program, which may include, but are not limited to, provision of English language acquisition classes, vocational skills training, launch of a welcome center, identification of employers and cooperating partners and cultivation of community support.
5. It adjusts the appropriation for the welcome centers to provide less funding in the first year and more in the second.
6. It makes grammatical and technical changes to the bill.

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

**LD 671      Resolve, To Require Professional Licensure for Home Inspectors**

**RESOLVE 61**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KESSLER C CHIPMAN B	ONTP OTP-AM	H-223

This bill requires that all property inspectors be licensed by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation by January 1, 2021. The bill also directs the department to adopt rules to establish standards and procedures for licensure.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-223)**

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. This amendment replaces the bill, which requires licensure of home inspectors, with a resolve that requires the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to conduct a sunrise review assessment of the proposal for licensing of home inspectors. The amendment requires the commissioner to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business and allows the committee to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve Law 2019, chapter 61 requires the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to conduct a sunrise review assessment of the proposal for licensing of home inspectors. Its requires the commissioner to submit a report by January 10, 2020 with any necessary legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business and allows the committee to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.