

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION,
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT
AND BUSINESS**

November 2020

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STATE OF MAINE

129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

LD 509 An Act To Increase the Minimum Grant Amount under the Maine State Grant Program CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| PIERCE T MILLETTR | OTP-AM ONTP | H-468 |

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill provides that the minimum grant amount under the Maine State Grant Program may not be less than \$2,500 if sufficient funds are appropriated for this purpose, subject to the current grant amount modifications under the program. This bill provides an ongoing appropriation of \$9,450,000 per year to fund this increase in the minimum grant amount.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-468)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, provides that, of the \$9,450,000 appropriated in each fiscal year, \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year must be dedicated to assistance of adult learners in returning to school and completing their credentials.

This bill was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

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 |

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill creates various programs to provide education, services and training for the State's workforce immigrant populations in the following ways:

1. It establishes the Welcome Center Initiative to operate welcome centers in adult education programs to provide education, services and training for foreign-trained workers in municipalities or regions of the State that have immigrant populations or that have industries that are experiencing a shortage of trained workers, patterned after the New Mainers Resource Center operated by the City of Portland adult education program through a pilot program created by the 126th Legislature. The bill provides funds for grants for proposed welcome centers;
2. It directs the Department of Education's office of adult education and family literacy to:
 - A. Administer a vocation-specific English language acquisition and workforce training program for immigrants in the State and establish a statewide competitive grant process to carry out the purposes of the program;
 - B. Establish and implement a local community planning support program to provide a planning process for communities to provide English language acquisition and training in vocational skills, identify employers or

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

areas that would benefit from immigrant residency or employment and cultivate community support to integrate immigrants into the communities and local workforce. The office must establish a grant process to carry out the purposes of the program; and

C. Develop and implement a grant process to award grants to adult education programs to increase English language acquisition instruction.

The bill provides funding for the vocation-specific English language acquisition and workforce training program, the local community planning support program and grants to increase English language acquisition instruction; and

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. It also provides ongoing funding for the New Mainers Resource Center in Portland.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-556)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, provides additional details and clarifying language regarding the welcome centers, English language classes, training grants and local community planning support program. The amendment also changes the appropriation for proposed welcome centers from \$50,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 and in fiscal year 2020-21 to \$25,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 and \$75,000 in fiscal year 2020-21.

This bill was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 772 An Act To Encourage Continued Learning CARRIED OVER

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

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to enact measures designed to encourage continued learning by Maine residents, including, but not limited to, creating incentives and implementing strategies to enable so-called stranded learners who have some college credit but no degree to complete degree and certificate programs and graduate from college.

This bill, which had not yet been voted by the committee, was carried over in committee to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 799 An Act To Create the Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| JORGENSEN E GRATWICK G | OTP-AM ONTP | H-558 |