

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 JUDICIARY

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 Judiciary

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 680 **An Act To Clarify the Intent of the Federal Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 To Ensure the Federal Principle of Inherent Tribal Sovereignty** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EVANGELOS J CHIPMAN B		

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 clarify the intent of the federal Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 to ensure the federal principle of inherent tribal sovereignty.

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

LD 698 **An Act To Authorize Maine Courts To Award Attorney's Fees and Costs to Citizens Who Prevail in Civil Litigation against the Executive Branch** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARSON B	OTP-AM ONTP	S-312

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 clarifies that when one or more citizens sue the Governor or any executive branch agency to enforce federal or state law and the citizen or citizens prevail or substantially prevail, the citizen or citizens may petition the court for the State to pay all costs. If the citizen or citizens demonstrate that the agency or Governor knowingly violated the law, the court is required to also award reasonable attorney's fees.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-312)

The bill requires the court to award reasonable attorney's fees to a citizen or citizens that prevail in litigation against the Governor or any agency of the executive branch if the citizen or citizens demonstrate that the defendant knowingly violated the law. This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, gives the court in that situation the discretion to award reasonable attorney's fees to be paid to the prevailing citizen or citizens. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

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.