

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

August 2019

STAFF:

SAMUEL W. PRAYER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
AND
SUZANNE VOYNIK, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW
5 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1635
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

MEMBERS:

SEN. G. WILLIAM DIAMOND, CHAIR
SEN. BENJAMIN M. CHIPMAN
SEN. BRADLEE THOMAS FARRIN

REP. ANDREW J. MCLEAN, CHAIR
REP. MARK E. BRYANT
REP. BETTY A. AUSTIN
REP. BENJAMIN T. COLLINGS
REP. BETTYANN W. SHEATS
REP. BRUCE A. WHITE
REP. MICHAEL D. PERKINS
REP. RICHARD M. CEBRA
REP. DUSTIN MICHAEL WHITE
REP. THOMAS H. MARTIN, JR.

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 Transportation

LD 599 An Act To Ensure Fair Access and Pricing for Residents Who Use the CARRIED OVER
Maine State Ferry Service

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HERBIG E DOUDERA V		

This bill requires that state support to the Marine Highway account must fund 100% of the capital and operating costs of the Maine State Ferry Service. It also requires the Department of Transportation to establish, by rule, ferry tolls separately for each route of travel and to adopt no later than November 1, 2019 the toll rates that were in effect on May 20, 2018.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 656 An Act To Increase the Penalty for Passing a School Bus with Its Red ONTP
Lights Flashing

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CEBRA R	ONTP	

This bill increases the penalties for passing a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing. The new penalties are:

1. The assessment of six demerit points on a driver's license;
2. A fine of \$2,000; and
3. A term of imprisonment of 90 days.

LD 668 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Convene a ONTP
Work Group To Study Improving Traffic Safety for Color-blind Drivers

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ARATA A	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to convene a work group of interested parties and persons with expertise in traffic light systems and technology to study requiring new traffic lights to accommodate color-blind drivers. It requires the study to include an analysis of the effectiveness of the available technology and its costs. The department is directed to submit a report on its study, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by December 4, 2019. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

LD 689 An Act Regarding Temporary Signs Related to an Event That Are CARRIED OVER
Placed in the Public Right-of-way

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

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

This bill limits the placement of temporary signs related to an event in the public right-of-way by prohibiting their placement more than six weeks before the event.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 704 An Act To Clarify the Laws Regarding Driver's License Suspensions ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HAMPER J ARATA A	ONTP	

This bill applies to motor vehicle offenses the definition of "criminal negligence" and the use of causation as an element of an offense as used in the Maine Criminal Code. This bill also changes the standard for minimum suspension for negligent operation of a motor vehicle causing the death of another person from "negligently" to "with criminal negligence" and removes the provision requiring the Secretary of State to notify any family of the victim or to consider written or oral statements from the family prior to the determination and issuance of the suspension.

LD 707 An Act To Require the Clearing of Vegetation along Roads ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T MARTIN J	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would require the Department of Transportation to clear from the sides of roads vegetation that poses a risk to drivers.

LD 716 An Act To Increase Railroad Freight Safety Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RYKERSON D	ONTP OTP	

This bill requires a railroad company to ensure that there are at least two employees on a freight train traveling on a railroad line within the State, except for a freight train traveling for hostler service. It provides that a railroad company that violates this provision is subject to a fine of not more than \$500 for each violation.

LD 740 An Act To Include Bucksport and the Penobscot River Basin in the Department of Transportation's Cargo Port Strategy ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL D ROSEN K	ONTP	