

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
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

August 2019

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STATE OF MAINE

129TH 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 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 Veterans and Legal Affairs

LD 720 An Act Regarding Maine's Adult Use Marijuana Law

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 that proposes to amend the laws governing adult use marijuana in the State.

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

LD 722 An Act To Require Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates To Disclose Their Federal Income Tax Returns

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S BELLOWS S	ONTP OTP	

This bill requires that, in order for a candidate for President or a candidate for Vice President to appear on a general election ballot, the candidate for President or the candidate for Vice President must disclose the previous three years of that candidate's federal income tax returns, which may be redacted by the candidate or the candidate's staff to remove personally identifying information other than the candidate's name. The bill directs the Secretary of State to post the tax returns on the Secretary of State's publicly accessible website. The legislation takes effect only if a sufficient number of states, with a total of at least 100 electoral votes, including Maine's electoral votes, adopt similar legislation.

LD 737 An Act To Update Alcohol Taste-testing Requirements

**PUBLIC 79
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEWART T SANBORN H	OTP-AM	H-119

This bill allows agency liquor stores and off-premises retail licensees to conduct up to three tastings per month of distilled spirits, wine and malt liquor each, for a potential total of nine tastings per month at some retailers.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-119)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause and authorizes agency liquor stores and off-premises retail licensees to conduct up to 15 taste-testing events per month of spirits, wine and malt liquor. The amendment allows, but does not require, agency liquor stores and off-premises retail licensees to submit a single request to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations listing all of the taste-testing events the agency liquor store or off-premises retail licensee plans to conduct in a single calendar month. The amendment also allows agency liquor stores and off-premises retail licensees to conduct taste testing of spirits, wine and malt liquor at the same taste-testing event, as long as the agency liquor store or off-premises retail licensee is licensed to sell the types of liquor being offered at the event. Finally, the amendment also makes several technical corrections to the terminology and cross-references in the agency liquor store and off-premises retail licensee taste-testing statutes.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 79 authorizes agency liquor stores and off-premises retail licensees to conduct up to 15 taste-testing events per month of spirits, wine and malt liquor. Agency liquor stores and off-premises retail licensees are authorized, but not required, to submit a single request to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations listing all of the taste-testing events the agency liquor store or off-premises retail licensee plans to conduct in a single calendar month. Agency liquor stores and off-premises retail licensees may conduct taste testing of spirits, wine and malt liquor at the same taste-testing event, as long as the agency liquor store or off-premises retail licensee is licensed to sell the types of liquor being offered at the event. Public Law 2019, chapter 79 also makes several technical corrections to the terminology and cross-references in the agency liquor store and off-premises retail licensee taste-testing statutes.

Public Law 2019, chapter 79 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2019.

LD 753 An Act To Allow Voters To Choose Ongoing Absentee Voter Status

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FECTEAU R DESCHAMBAULT S	ONTP	

This bill provides a process for a voter to request ongoing absentee voter status in a municipality that has approved the use of ongoing absentee voter status. Ongoing absentee voter status allows the voter to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide and municipal election until the status is terminated by request of the voter, because an absentee ballot sent to the voter is returned as undeliverable, because the voter dies or is disqualified to vote or because the voter's registration record is designated as inactive or cancelled in the central voter registration system.

LD 780 An Act To Change Municipal Campaign Contribution Limits

PUBLIC 51

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN B ACKLEY K	OTP-AM ONTP	S-21

This bill reduces from \$750 to \$350 the maximum allowable contribution that may be made to a candidate for municipal office for a single primary, general or special election by an individual or by a political committee, political action committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-21)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, reduces from \$750 to \$500 the maximum statutory allowable contribution for candidates for municipal office.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 51 reduces from \$750 to \$500 the maximum allowable contribution that may be made to a candidate for municipal office for a single primary, general or special election by an individual or by a political committee, political action committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization.