

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 INNOVATION,
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT
AND BUSINESS**

August 2019

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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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and
Business***

4. It adds a requirement that if a phone number is provided for the purposes of cancellation of the subscription, the phone number must be toll-free and must be prominently displayed in the disclosure.
5. It adds a requirement for prior notice of renewal for extended automatic subscription renewals.
6. It adds language exempting sellers from actions brought under the Unfair Trade Practices Act if the seller's failure to comply was the result of an error and the seller compensates the consumer.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-99)

This amendment replaces the requirement that a seller of an extended automatic subscription renewal provide for cancellation in the same manner used to purchase the subscription with a requirement that the seller provide for online cancellation of the subscription by any means of communicating information over a computer network.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 175 does the following.

1. It requires a business that makes an automatic renewal subscription renewal offer of an online magazine, journal or periodical, online media player, mobile app, social networking service, Internet game service, or online software to present the customer with an easily accessible disclosure of the methods that the consumer may use to cancel the subscription. It requires the seller to provide for online cancellation of the subscription by any means of communicating information over a computer network. If a phone number is provided for the purposes of cancellation, the number must be toll-free and prominently displayed in the disclosure.
2. It requires a business that makes an extended automatic subscription renewal, which is defined as an automatic subscription renewal with a specified subscription term of 12 months or more, in which the subscription automatically renews for a specified term of more than one month unless the consumer cancels the subscription, to notify the consumer in advance of the renewal. It requires that notice be provided to the consumer no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days before the cancellation deadline pursuant to the automatic subscription renewal. It requires that the seller provide for online cancellation of the subscription by any means of communicating information over a computer network and requires clear and conspicuous notice of the terms and procedures for cancellation.
3. It provides that noncompliance is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.
4. It provides that an action may not be brought under the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act if a violation is the result of an error and the seller provides a full refund or credit for all amounts billed to or paid by the consumer from the date of the subscription renewal until the date of the termination of the subscription or the date of the subsequent notice of renewal, whichever occurs first.
5. It applies only to agreements entered into or renewed after January 1, 2020 and does not apply to an entity that provides the host platform on the website of an Internet game service.

LD 772 **An Act To Encourage Continued Learning**

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
DAUGHTRY M

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

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

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

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

This bill amends the nursing education loan repayment program as follows.

1. It extends eligibility to apply to individuals who are currently enrolled in master's or doctoral degree programs;
2. It specifies that applicants must indicate an intention to work as full-time nursing faculty in a nursing education program in the State, and increases the required commitment from three to five years after acceptance into the nursing education loan repayment program; and
3. It increases the maximum amount of loans eligible for repayment under the program from \$4,500 to \$30,000 for a master's degree, and from \$6,000 to \$60,000 for a doctoral degree.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-558)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill and creates a new loan repayment program, administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, for health care providers who agree to live and work in the State for a minimum of five years. Under the program, the authority will pay up to \$30,000 per year and the lesser of \$150,000 in aggregate and 50% of the recipient's outstanding loan balance. The amendment establishes a fund for the program, sets parameters for the administration of the program and establishes an advisory committee to guide the work of the Finance Authority of Maine in administering the program. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

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 813 Resolve, To Encourage Relocation of Working Professionals ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHENETTE J FECTEAU R	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to design and implement a one-year pilot program to encourage remote workers to relocate to Maine. The pilot program, the New Remote Worker Grant Program, will award grants of up to \$2,500 per qualifying individual and up to \$125,000 in total funds for qualifying expenses. The resolve directs the department to, by February 1, 2021, report back to the joint standing