

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

November 2020

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# STATE OF MAINE

129<sup>TH</sup> 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 129<sup>th</sup> 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 129<sup>th</sup> 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 Environment and Natural Resources*

to clarify that waste materials resulting from or associated with the use of tobacco products, including, but not limited to, cigarette butts, constitute litter under the law.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 620 amends the State's litter laws to clarify that waste materials resulting from or associated with the use of tobacco products, including, but not limited to, cigarette butts, constitute litter under the law.

**LD 559      An Act To Restore Regular Mapping of Eelgrass Beds in the State      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREIGHT J CARSON B	OTP-AM	H-48

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Marine Resources, to establish and administer a program to regularly produce and update maps regarding the distribution of eelgrass beds in the State. Data collected and maps produced under this program must be made available on the Department of Environmental Protection's publicly accessible website. The Department of Environmental Protection is directed to submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental and natural resources matters on or before January 1, 2021, and biennially thereafter, a report on the data collected and maps produced under this program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-48)**

This amendment creates the Eelgrass Mapping Fund to support the establishment and administration of the eelgrass mapping program required under the bill and authorizes the fund to accept grants, bequests, gifts or contributions from any source, public or private. The amendment also revises the mapping schedule for the mapping of eelgrass beds as proposed in the bill and adds an appropriations and allocations section.

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

**LD 774      Resolve, To Protect Maine's Beaches and Shoreline      HELD BY GOVERNOR**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRAMLICH L FOLEY R	OTP-AM	H-711

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

This bill amends the State's coastal management policies laws to ensure that those policies address the effects of coastal erosion on the State's beaches and shoreline and ensure the health of the State's beaches and shoreline for habitat protection for coastal wildlife species and for protection against storms.

The bill also creates an advisory group on beach management, to be convened by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection for the purpose of developing and recommending objectives, strategies, legislation and

***Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources***

other actions to mitigate coastal erosion in the State and to keep beaches healthy for storm protection, habitat protection for coastal wildlife species and for recreational use. The group is directed to review the report titled "Integrated Beach Management Program Working Group Report," dated January 2017 and submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources in the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature, update the data and findings contained in that report, if necessary, and review and update the specific recommendations for legislative, regulatory or other actions contained in that report, if necessary.

No later than February 15, 2020, the commissioner is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources containing the findings and recommendations of the group following its review of the 2017 report, including any proposed legislation necessary to implement those recommendations. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation to implement those recommendations.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-711)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and changes the title. The resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to review the report titled "Integrated Beach Management Program Working Group Report," dated January 2017 and submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources in the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 66, and to identify and, where necessary and appropriate, develop strategies, legislation or other actions to assist municipalities in the mitigation of coastal erosion in the State and to keep the State's beaches healthy for protection against storms, for habitat protection for coastal wildlife species and for recreational uses.

The department is required by January 15, 2021 to report its findings and recommendations following that review, including any proposed legislation necessary to implement those recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters, which is authorized to report out related legislation.

**LD 951      An Act To Improve the Research Capabilities of State Agencies      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to improve the research capabilities of state agencies.

**LD 952      An Act To Coordinate and Standardize Data Collection Protocols      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the laws to coordinate and standardize data collection protocols.