

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 INNOVATION,
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT
AND BUSINESS**

August 2019

MEMBERS:

SEN. ERIN D. HERBIG, CHAIR
SEN. REBECCA J. MILLETT
SEN. STACEY K. GUERIN

REP. MATTEA ELISABETH LARSEN DAUGHTRY, CHAIR

REP. JAMES R. HANDY
REP. JOSEPH PERRY*
REP. SHAWN A. BABINE
REP. W. EDWARD CROCKETT
REP. JOEL R. STETKIS
REP. SUSAN M.W. AUSTIN
REP. MATTHEW A. HARRINGTON
REP. NORMAN E. HIGGINS
REP. RENA D. NEWELL
REP. RYAN FECTEAU*
REP. STEPHEN MORIARTY*
REP. DALE DENNO*

STAFF:

SAMUEL SENFT, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

*Committee member for a portion of the session

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 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

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

committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic advancement and business matters and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor and housing matters and gives these committees authority to report out legislation based on the department's report.

LD 814 An Act To Strengthen Maine's Economy through Research and Innovation led by the University of Maine System CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HERBIG E HUBBELL B		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would provide funding and enact measures based on recommendations of the President of the University of Maine at Machias in a strategic plan chartered by the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and due to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System in March 2019. The bill would strengthen research and economic development efforts across the University of Maine System to support Maine industries and workforce development and to foster business formation and expansion, specifically in the seven research and development sectors designated in statute: advanced technology for agriculture and forestry; aquaculture and marine technology; biotechnology; composite materials technology; environmental technology; information technology; and precision manufacturing technology.

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

LD 862 An Act To Limit the Amount of Money That May Be Retained on Construction Contracts Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TEPLER D LIBBY N	ONTP OTP	

This bill limits the amount of money that may be retained under a construction contract, pending the completion of contractor or subcontractor performance, to 5% of the contract price. The limit applies only to private contracts and not to contracts entered into by governmental entities and only to contracts entered into on or after the effective date of the legislation.

LD 872 An Act To Forgive Education Debt for Certain Health Care Professionals Who Work in the State ONTP

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

This bill creates the Health Care Professional Education Loan Repayment Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine to repay the education debt of certain health care professionals who agree to live and work in the State for a minimum of five years. Under the program, the authority will pay 20% of the education debt or \$25,000, whichever is lower, for each year of participation in the program up to a total of \$125,000 for a health care professional who is not employed in a federally designated health professional shortage area and 20% of the education debt or \$30,000, whichever is lower, for each year of participation in the program up to a total of \$150,000 for a health care professional who is employed in a federally designated health professional shortage area.