

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

November 2020

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*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 Veterans and Legal Affairs

or leased by the organization for at least two consecutive years, that serve as its primary administrative operations headquarters and that are located in a municipality that has, by referendum of the voters, approved the operation of slot machines in that municipality. The charitable nonprofit veterans' organization must be able to demonstrate that it has a cash reserve of \$1,000 for each machine the organization intends to operate.

A charitable nonprofit veterans' organization that wishes to apply prior to January 1, 2020 may file a declaration of intent to apply with the Gambling Control Board. An application must include a refundable \$2,500 deposit. The initial application fee for a slot machine operator license is \$500, and the annual renewal fee is \$175.

A slot machine operated by a charitable nonprofit veterans' organization is subject to the same central site monitoring that applies to casinos and slot machine facilities at harness racing tracks. The total number of slot machines allowed to be operated by charitable nonprofit veterans' organizations statewide between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 is 80; beginning January 1, 2021 the number increases to 150.

The bill provides that 10% of the net slot machine income from a charitable nonprofit veterans' organization is required to be deposited directly with the Gambling Control Board for administrative expenses; 8% is distributed directly to the General Fund; 10% is distributed to the host municipality; and 2% is dedicated to gambling addiction prevention and treatment. A charitable nonprofit veterans' organization that is licensed to operate slot machines is required to establish a separate account, from which the board may withdraw funds to distribute the net revenue percentages. The remaining revenue generated from the slot machines must be used to support the charitable purposes of the veterans' organization.

This bill, which had been reported out of committee but not yet taken up by the House or the Senate before adjournment of the Second Regular Session, was carried over a second time to any special session of the Legislature by Joint Order, S.P. 788.

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

Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule

Sponsor(s)
PIERCE T

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

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

LD 835 An Act To Increase Funding for Case Managers for Veterans

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
ROBERTS T

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 that proposes to provide funding for additional case managers in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to provide information and assistance to veterans regarding the availability of benefits and services for veterans such as health care, home financing, property tax exemptions and income tax credits.

This bill, which had been voted but not yet reported out of committee, was carried over in committee to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 999 An Act To Allow Medical and Adult Use Marijuana Stores To Share a Common Space CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D		

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill allows the use of a shared facility for retail sale of adult use marijuana and adult use marijuana products and sale of marijuana and marijuana products for medical use, as long as the adult use marijuana and adult use marijuana products are sold using a different cash register than that used for sales of marijuana and marijuana products for medical use.

This bill, which had been voted by the committee but not yet reported out, was carried over in committee for the second time to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1081 An Act Regarding Smoking in Vehicles When a Minor Is Present PUBLIC 623

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CYRWAY S COSTAIN D	OTP-AM	S-425

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill expands the restrictions on where marijuana may be smoked to include:

1. Areas in which tobacco smoking is prohibited;
2. In a private residence or on private property when a person under 18 years of age is present; and
3. In a vehicle in which a person under 18 years of age is present.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-425)

This amendment changes the title of and replaces the bill. Under the motor vehicle laws, smoking in a motor vehicle by the operator or a passenger is prohibited when a person who has not attained 16 years of age is present in the motor vehicle. The amendment amends that prohibition to provide that smoking in a motor vehicle by the operator or a passenger is prohibited when a minor is present in the motor vehicle. Under the motor vehicle laws, "minor" is defined as a person who has not attained 18 years of age.