

# 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  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

August 2019

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. MICHAEL E. CARPENTER, CHAIR  
SEN. SHENNA BELLOWS  
SEN. LISA M. KEIM

REP. DONNA BAILEY, CHAIR  
REP. CHRISTOPHER BABBIDGE  
REP. BARBARA A. CARDONE  
REP. LOIS GALGAY RECKITT  
REP. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS  
REP. THOM HARNETT  
REP. DAVID G. HAGGAN  
REP. PHILIP CURTIS  
REP. JOHN DEVEAU  
REP. JEFFREY EVANGELOS

**STAFF:**

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

# 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 Judiciary

This bill provides that single-occupancy bathrooms in existing buildings for use by the general public may not be designated as gender specific. It also requires that new construction of buildings for use by the general public include the construction of single-occupancy bathrooms that meet the standards of construction for new buildings and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The bathrooms may not be designated as gender specific; the purpose of this provision is to ensure that a person with a disability using the bathroom may be assisted by an attendant of a different gender.

### Committee Amendment "A" (H-640)

This amendment strikes the bill and instead provides that after January 1, 2020, new construction of public buildings must include single-occupancy toilet facilities that meet the accessibility requirements established in the Maine Human Rights Act, if the new construction has a maximum occupant capacity exceeding 100 individuals. For example, after January 1, 2020, a restaurant that seats at least 101 individuals is subject to the single-occupancy toilet facilities requirement.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 516 provides that after January 1, 2020, new construction of public buildings must include single-occupancy toilet facilities that meet the accessibility requirements established in the Maine Human Rights Act, if the new construction has a maximum occupant capacity exceeding 100 individuals. For example, after January 1, 2020, a restaurant that seats at least 101 individuals is subject to the single-occupancy toilet facilities requirement.

### **LD 856**      **An Act To Give Probate Judges Latitude in Permitting Visitation by Grandparents**      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RILEY T	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------

This bill authorizes a court to award a grandparent reasonable rights of visitation or access to a minor child regardless of objections the parents or legal guardians may have concerning the award of rights of visitation or access.

### **LD 868**      **An Act To Require That the Terms of a Settlement to Which a Governmental Entity is a Party Be Made Available to the Public**      **PUBLIC 215**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> VEROW A	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-269
------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

This bill provides that the terms of a settlement of a claim against a county or municipality, including a payment by an insurer of the county or municipality, are a public record.

### Committee Amendment "A" (H-269)

This amendment replaces the bill to make clear that a settlement agreement entered into by any governmental entity is a public record, except for any information in the agreement that is confidential by statute or is described by one of the exceptions to the definition of public record in the Freedom of Access Act.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 215, makes clear that a settlement agreement entered into by any governmental entity is a public record, except for any information in the agreement that is confidential by statute or is described by one of