

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

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.

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

The program is contingent on funding from the proceeds from the renewal of the contract for the operations of the State's wholesale spirits business.

LD 875 An Act To Require Warranty Coverage for Damage to Manufactured Homes during Transportation and Handling ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ACKLEY K	ONTP	

This bill requires that warranties for manufactured homes include covering damage to a manufactured home during transportation or handling, for which the dealer is required to take corrective action. This bill also requires a dealer of manufactured housing to place an amount equal to 10% of the purchase price in escrow that may not be released to the dealer until both the dealer and consumer execute a release subsequent to the installation and final inspection of the manufactured housing.

LD 890 An Act To Expand Workforce Access by Creating Apprenticeship Programs To Increase Access to Licensure in Certain Occupations ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KEIM L DAUGHTRY M	ONTP	

This bill expands access to the workforce by allowing individuals to fulfill licensing requirements through participation in apprenticeship programs, thus allowing participants to earn a paycheck at the same time as they acquire hands-on training and experience. Under this bill:

1. The licensing boards for the occupations that are included in this expanded apprenticeship program will grant licenses to applicants who meet criteria established by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation;
2. The criteria established may include, without limitation:
 - A. Successful completion of the 8th grade;
 - B. Completion of an apprenticeship that is approved by the Department of Labor or the United States Department of Labor or in accordance with any applicable state or federal law. For purposes of this bill, "apprenticeship" is defined as a program that meets the federal guidelines set out in 29 United States Code, Section 50 and 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 29; and
 - C. Successful completion of any necessary examination, as determined by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. The passing score on an examination for a participant in the expanded apprenticeship model may not exceed the passing score that is otherwise required under the rules adopted by the applicable licensing board. If the rules adopted by the applicable licensing board do not otherwise require successful completion of an examination, an examination may not be required for participation in the expanded apprenticeship program; and
3. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation is required to adopt rules necessary to implement the expanded apprenticeship program, including limitations on the length of and the numbers of hours required by each authorized apprenticeship.