

# 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 TAXATION**

August 2019

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. BEN CHIPMAN, CHAIR  
SEN. HEATHER SANBORN  
SEN. MATTHEW POULIOT

REP. RYAN TIPPING, CHAIR  
REP. STEPHEN S. STANLEY  
REP. MAUREEN FITZGERALD TERRY  
REP. KRISTEN SARA CLOUTIER  
REP. DIANE M. DENK  
REP. ANN HIGGINS MATLACK  
REP. DONALD G. MAREAN  
REP. BRUCK A. BICKFORD  
REP. HAROLD TREY STEWART\*  
REP. THEODORE JOSEPH KRYZAK, JR.  
REP. PHILIP CURTIS\*

**STAFF:**

JULIE JONES, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW  
5 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0005  
(207) 287-1635  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/ofpr>

\*Committee member for a portion of the session

# 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 Taxation

small trucks and vans and adds an appropriations and allocations section.

### LD 854 An Act To Improve Tax Incentives for Broadband Service

PUBLIC 260

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ACKLEY K BELLOWS S	OTP-AM	H-385

This bill expands the allowable use of tax increment financing to include development, expansion or improvement of broadband services, including connecting to broadband service outside the tax increment financing district.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-385)

This amendment clarifies the circumstances under which tax increment financing project costs may include broadband and fiber optics expansion projects that serve residential or other nonbusiness or noncommercial areas within a municipality or plantation.

See also LD 1123.

#### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 260, expands the allowable use of tax increment financing to include development, expansion or improvement of broadband services, including connecting to broadband service outside the tax increment financing district and clarifies the circumstances under which tax increment financing project costs may include broadband and fiber optics expansion projects that serve residential or other nonbusiness or noncommercial areas within a municipality or plantation.

### LD 863 An Act To Exempt Diapering Products from Sales Tax

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TEPLER D VITELLI E	OTP-AM ONTP	H-212

This bill provides a sales tax exemption for disposable and reusable diapers for children, including diaper covers, wraps and diaper pins that are used with reusable diapers.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-212)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

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 873 An Act To Clarify the Application of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax to Water Well Drilling Equipment

PUBLIC 430

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRIGNON C DAVIS P	OTP-AM	H-442

## Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

This bill sets the annual property tax on equipment for water well drilling owned by a licensed well driller at \$2,500 for tax years beginning January 1, 2020 and thereafter.

### Committee Amendment "A" (H-442)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill and provides that water well drilling equipment attached to a self-propelled vehicle is not considered part of the motor vehicle for purposes of the motor vehicle excise tax.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 430, provides that water well drilling equipment attached to a self-propelled vehicle is not considered part of the motor vehicle for purposes of the motor vehicle excise tax.

### LD 887 An Act To Improve the Property Tax Fairness Credit

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

BLUME L

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill increases the maximum credit available under the property tax fairness credit to \$2,000 for resident individuals, regardless of age. Current law provides a maximum credit of \$750 for resident individuals under 65 years of age and \$1,200 for resident individuals 65 years of age and older. This bill also removes the inclusion of benefits received under the federal Social Security Act and railroad retirement benefits from being included as income for purposes of determining the credit. The credit is fully refundable after the application of nonrefundable credits.

Part H of the biennial budget, PL 2019, chapter 343, changes the formula for calculation of the property tax fairness credit to expand the credit to residents whose property taxes or rent constituting property taxes on homestead property exceeds 5%, rather than 6% in current law, of the residents' income for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020.

See also LDs 393, 669, 957 and 1158.

### LD 892 Resolve, To Require the Examination of Alternatives to the Service Provider Tax

RESOLVE 81

Sponsor(s)

VITELLI E  
MCCREIGHT J

Committee Report

OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

S-289

This bill repeals the service provider tax for so-called MaineCare Appendix C private nonmedical institutions, which are residential care facilities maintained wholly or partly for the purpose of providing residents with medical and remedial treatment services. The service provider tax continues to apply to private nonmedical institution services that are provided by MaineCare Appendix B, D, E or F private nonmedical institutions.

### Committee Amendment "A" (S-289)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and other state agencies that the departments determine should be included to examine the service provider tax and alternatives to the tax and submit a report on their findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation by March 1, 2020. The committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.