

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

November 2020

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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 Special and Second Regular Sessions 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 Special Session of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Monday, November 25, 2019 and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Regular Session of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Tuesday, June 16, 2020. 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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

**LD 920 An Act To Establish the Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PLUECKER B JACKSON T	OTP-AM ONTP	H-192

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

The bill establishes the Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to provide incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and administration of programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of federal food and nutrition assistance programs. Fund recipients must be state-based organizations that support local food producers, local food production or low-income individuals in receiving food and nutrition assistance, with priority to organizations that have a demonstrated history of incentivizing the use of federal food and nutrition assistance programs to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables or that demonstrate the ability to leverage the proceeds to match or receive additional funds from local, state, federal or private sources. The bill provides reporting and audit requirements for recipients to ensure proper use of the funds and appropriates funds to capitalize the fund.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-192)**

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

This bill was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

**LD 1016 Resolve, To Require the Construction of a New District Headquarters Building for the Bureau of Forestry in Fort Kent**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T MARTIN J	OTP-AM ONTP	S-335 BREEN C S-94

This resolve was finally passed by the Legislature in the First Regular Session and then held by the Governor. During the Second Regular Session, this bill was recalled from the Governor's desk pursuant to joint order, S.P. 704.

This resolve requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to solicit bids for the construction of a new facility in Fort Kent to house the district headquarters for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry. Construction must be started within 60 days following the award of the contract.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-94)**

This amendment, which is the majority report, strikes the requirement in the resolve that bids must be solicited no later than 90 days following the effective date of this resolve and that construction must be started within 60 days following award of the contract. The amendment provides one-time funds to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry for the construction of a new facility in the Town of Fort Kent to

***Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry***

house the district headquarters of the department's Bureau of Forestry.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-335)**

This amendment requires the State Controller to transfer to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund \$350,000 from the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than January 1, 2020.

This resolve was carried over in the Senate to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

**LD 1037 An Act To Address the Browntail Moth Infestation**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TEPLER D BREEN C	OTP-AM ONTP	H-449

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill provides funding to the University of Maine System to support a three-year study of the browntail moth infestation. This bill specifies that funds appropriated for this purpose do not lapse but must be carried forward into the next fiscal year to be used only to support the cost of the study.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-449)**

This amendment, which is the majority report, requires the University of Maine System to submit an annual report on the progress of the three-year browntail moth infestation study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters and the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than March 1st for the duration of the three-year study.

This bill was again carried over still on the Appropriations Table, to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

**LD 1167 An Act To Increase Consumption of Maine Foods in State Institutions**

**PUBLIC 677**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HICKMAN C VITELLI E	OTP-AM	H-761

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

Current law requires state and school purchasers to buy meat, fish, dairy products, excluding milk and eggs, and species of fruits and fresh vegetables directly from Maine food producers or food brokers. The bill establishes a minimum percentage of Maine foodstuffs, including milk or milk products, eggs, meat or meat products, poultry or poultry products, fish or fish products and fruits and vegetables, that must be purchased, requiring at least 20% by December 31, 2025, at least 30% by December 31, 2030, at least 40% by December 31, 2040 and at least 50% by December 31, 2050. The bill exempts from the requirements school purchasers at schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. The bill also clarifies that "Maine food producer" includes food processors,