

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

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# STATE OF MAINE

129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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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 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

The amendment provides ongoing funding of \$5,100,000 in each year of the biennium to the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention for tobacco use prevention and cessation in order to align with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. The bill also provides \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 and \$750,000 in fiscal year 2020-21 for tobacco use cessation medications and counseling for MaineCare members.

### House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-656)

This amendment reduces appropriations for tobacco use prevention and cessation and adds provisions increasing reimbursement for certain services under the MaineCare program, providing an income tax deduction for student loan payments made by a taxpayer's employer directly to a lender on behalf of a qualified health care employee and transferring Hospital Tax Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Health and Human Services to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 530 increases the tax on tobacco products, other than cigarettes, to 43% of the wholesale sales price, beginning January 2, 2020, and includes electronic smoking devices and liquids used in electronic smoking devices in the definition of "tobacco products." The law provides that, if the tax on cigarettes is increased after January 2, 2020, the tax on smokeless tobacco and other tobacco products will be adjusted by a rate that is equivalent to the percentage change in the tax rate for one cigarette.

This law provides ongoing funding in each year of the biennium to the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention for tobacco use prevention and cessation in order to align with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. The law also provides funding for tobacco use cessation medications and counseling for MaineCare members.

The law increases reimbursement for certain services under the MaineCare program, provides an income tax deduction for student loan payments made by a taxpayer's employer directly to a lender on behalf of a qualified health care employee and transfers Hospital Tax Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Health and Human Services to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

### LD 1031 An Act To Base the Vehicle and Mobile Home Excise Tax on Actual Value

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ORDWAY L DAVIS P	ONTP	

This bill requires that the excise tax for all motor vehicles, mobile homes and camper trailers be based upon the actual value of the vehicle or mobile home at the time of delivery to the owner, as determined by sources approved by the State Tax Assessor rather than the maker's list price required under current law.

The bill requires the State to reimburse a municipality for the difference between the amount of excise tax that would be collected by the municipality on all vehicles registered and taxed by the municipality using the actual value and the amount of tax that would be collected using maker's list price.

See also LD 119.