

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

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 75 directs the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to conduct a sunrise review regarding the licensing of operators of cranes that:

1. Are used in construction, demolition or excavation work;
2. Are used at construction sites of projects that involve work on structures over an established height; and
3. Have lifting capacity that reaches or exceeds set limits.

In conducting the sunrise review, the Commissioner must consider the following:

1. A requirement that an applicant for licensure as an operator of a crane possess an active, unrestricted Maine driver’s license and a certification of medical fitness;
2. A requirement for a written and practical examination that incorporates national certifications and federal or national industry guidelines; and
3. A pathway to licensure that recognizes licensure in another U.S. state or territory.

This law requires that the commissioner submit a report by January 10, 2020 to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. The committee is authorized to submit legislation on the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

LD 909 Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development To Establish a Blockchain Technology Working Group ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WADSWORTH N	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This resolve directs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish a working group to develop a master plan for fostering the expansion of the blockchain technology industry in the State and recommend policies and investments to make the State a leader in blockchain technology. Blockchain technology, used in the creation of Bitcoin and other digital currencies, consists of a list of digital records linked together using cryptography that is resistant to modification of the data in the records, creating an open, distributed ledger that records a transaction between two or more parties efficiently and in a verifiable and permanent manner. This resolve directs the commissioner to submit the master plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic advancement and business matters by December 2, 2020 and authorizes the committee to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

LD 1051 An Act To Create the Maine Family First Employer Program CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HERBIG E GIDEON S	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This bill creates the Maine Family First Employer Program under the Department of Labor to award employers that

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

create family-friendly workplaces by providing, for all full-time employees, advancement and leadership opportunities; the same pay rates for similar work; stipends or assistance for child care; paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child and medical care for employees or family members of employees; flexible work accommodations for other family obligations; and health insurance and retirement plan options. The awards are presented by the Governor and come with a logo that a designated employer may use for promotional purposes.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 1056 An Act To Update and Amend the Finance Authority of Maine Act

PUBLIC 160

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FECTEAU R HERBIG E	OTP-AM	H-224

This bill does the following.

1. It amends the Finance Authority of Maine Act by removing various references to bond financing for major business expansion projects and eliminating that financing.
2. It reallocates the bonding authority for securing the Finance Authority of Maine's capital reserve funds supporting other programs.
3. It removes definitions pertaining to the Clean Fuel Vehicle Fund, which was repealed in 2013. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-224)**

This amendment increases the maximum amount of insurance the Finance Authority of Maine may provide to related entities from \$7,000,000 to \$7,500,000.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 160 does the following.

1. It amends the Finance Authority of Maine Act by removing various references to bond financing for major business expansion projects and eliminating that financing.
2. It reallocates the bonding authority for securing the Finance Authority of Maine's capital reserve funds supporting other programs.
3. It removes definitions pertaining to the Clean Fuel Vehicle Fund, which was repealed in 2013.
4. It increases the maximum amount of insurance the Finance Authority of Maine may provide to related entities from \$7,000,000 to \$7,500,000.

LD 1087 An Act To Keep Maine Businesses Competitive

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HAMPER J	ONTP	