

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 CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

August 2019

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129TH 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 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.

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This bill requires that firefighter training include preventive and post-trauma counseling, at which a counseling professional licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 119 or the fire department chaplain must be available to work with the firefighters, as required by the fire chief. The bill provides that, with advice from and in consultation with each regional council and its medical control committee and with the statewide emergency medical services' medical director, the Emergency Medical Services' Board may adopt routine technical rules setting mandatory requirements for preventive and post-trauma counseling for basic and advanced training for emergency medical services' persons for initial licensing and relicensing. The requirements may include the services of a counseling professional licensed under Title 32, chapter 119 or a chaplain to be provided by ambulance services and nontransporting emergency medical services.

LD 1199 An Act To Protect the Safety of Health Care Workers ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOW D	ONTP	

This bill provides that an assault on a health care practitioner while that health care practitioner is providing medical care or an assault on a hospital employee or person working for a hospital on a contractual basis while that employee or person is performing duties related to the provision of care for a patient or a prospective patient is a Class C crime.

See also LD 926.

LD 1210 Resolve, To Direct the Commissioner of Corrections To Study Changes CARRIED OVER
in Corrections Practices and Reinvestment in Corrections Resources To
Reduce Recidivism and Control Correctional Facility Costs

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TALBOT ROSS R CARPENTER M		

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Corrections to establish a working group to study changes in corrections practices and reinvestment of corrections resources in various ways to reduce recidivism and control correctional facility costs, including upstream interventions, diversion and alternative sentencing, prevention and harm reduction and mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

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

LD 1215 An Act Relating to Defenses and Self-defense in the Maine Criminal CARRIED OVER
Code

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARPENTER M		

This bill amends the Maine Criminal Code by clarifying that determination of the applicability of a defense is a preliminary question of fact under the Maine Rules of Evidence that must be proved by the totality of the circumstances and not by viewing the evidence in a light most favorable to the defendant and by providing that the

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use of nondeadly force in defense of a person is not justified when the person is engaged in criminal conduct against the other person or the other person's property concurrently with the use of the nondeadly force.

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

LD 1221 An Act To Allow Deductions from Prison Sentences for Rehabilitative Activities CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TALBOT ROSS R CLAXTON N		

This bill allows, in addition to existing deductions in time from a prison or jail sentence, a deduction in time of up to 7.5 days per calendar month for a person's satisfactory performance, while in custody or on probation, in the completion of an educational program leading to a high school equivalency diploma, completion of another educational or vocational training program or a work release program or work for a county or state facility industry that leads directly to the rehabilitation of that person.

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

LD 1249 An Act To Prohibit Infringing on the Rights of Association of Dependent Adults HELD BY GOVERNOR

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VEROW A	OTP-AM	H-546

This bill prohibits abuse and isolation of elder persons and dependent adults. Abuse or isolation of an elder person or dependent adult is a Class C crime. A person commits the crime if the person has or has assumed responsibility for the care, custody or control of an elder person or a dependent adult and subjects the elder person or dependent adult to isolation, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or financial abuse, including threats of abuse. The new crime is allocated to the chapter of the Maine Criminal Code that establishes crimes against the person.

The bill defines "elder person" to mean a person who is at least 60 years of age. The bill also defines "isolate" to mean to restrict personal rights of association retained by the elder person or dependent adult, including, but not limited to, the right to receive visitors, telephone calls and personal mail, unless the restriction of personal rights is authorized by court order.

When a person is convicted of the crime of abuse or isolation of an elder person or dependent adult, the court may require that the person convicted of the crime participate in appropriate counseling at the convicted person's expense.

The bill is based on a similar law in Rhode Island.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-546)