

# 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 CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

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 Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

awaiting trial.

In making this determination, the departments shall consider:

1. The number of currently available forensic emergency and crisis beds;
2. The number of individuals currently awaiting placement pretrial;
3. The annual average number of individuals needing forensic services pretrial;
4. Proposals to address unmet needs and associated costs; and
5. Other factors that would lessen wait times for placements and provide needed mental health services to individuals pretrial.

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

**LD 1321     An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Funding Limitation on County Jails** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY S	ONTP	

This bill eliminates the 4% growth limitation cap on county assessments to municipalities to fund county correctional services.

**LD 1346     An Act To Revise the Good Time Laws To Improve Public Safety** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TALBOT ROSS R DESCHAMBAULT S	ONTP	

Beginning January 1, 2020, this bill provides for up to 12 days of deduction per month from a sentence of imprisonment for any person sentenced for a crime on or after October 1, 1983 and for any person who commits a crime on or after January 1, 2020 and is subsequently sentenced for that crime as follows:

1. Up to six days per month may be deducted if the person's conduct and fulfillment of assigned responsibilities is determined to warrant those deductions;
2. Up to four additional days per month may be deducted if the person's participation in educational programming, participation in assigned work, compliance with the person's case plan or fulfillment of other responsibilities is determined to warrant those deductions; and
3. Up to two additional days per month may be deducted if the person's participation in minimum security or community programs in the person's transition plan for community work, education or rehabilitation programs is determined to warrant those deductions.

Awarding of these deductions is determined by the chief administrative officer of the state correctional facility or the sheriff of the county jail in which the person has been detained. The bill caps at 12 days the total days of

*Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

deduction per month a person may receive under the State's good time laws.

**LD 1375 An Act To Prohibit Certain Sexual Acts and Sexual Contact by Law Enforcement Officers in Performance of Official Duties and To Amend the Law on Obstructing Criminal Prosecution**

**PUBLIC 438**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREA D MILLETT R	OTP-AM	H-285

This bill makes sexual contact between a law enforcement officer and a person who is not the law enforcement officer's spouse while the person is under arrest, in custody, being interrogated or temporarily detained, including during a traffic stop or questioning pursuant to an investigation of a crime, by the law enforcement officer a Class D crime. If the sexual contact involves penetration, the sexual contact is a Class C crime.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-285)**

This amendment replaces the bill and provides a new title. The amendment provides that a law enforcement officer commits Class B gross sexual assault if the officer, in the performance of the officer's official duties, engages in a sexual act with another person, not the officer's spouse, while the other person is under arrest, in custody or being interrogated or temporarily detained, including during a traffic stop or questioning pursuant to an investigation of a crime. The amendment subjects to disciplinary sanctions by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy an applicant or certificate holder who engages in sexual contact, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 251, subsection 1, paragraph D, with another person, not the person's spouse, if at the time of the sexual contact the applicant or certificate holder is acting in performance of official duties and the other person is under arrest, in custody or being interrogated or temporarily detained, including during a traffic stop or questioning pursuant to an investigation of a crime, except that it is not grounds for discipline that a certificate holder properly performs a search of a person for legitimate law enforcement purposes consistent with training standards approved by the board. The amendment also prohibits, as obstructing criminal prosecution, giving anything of benefit to another person with the intent to induce the other person to refrain from initiating or continuing with a criminal prosecution or juvenile proceeding or soliciting, accepting or agreeing to accept anything of benefit for those purposes.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 438 provides that a law enforcement officer commits Class B gross sexual assault if the officer, in the performance of the officer's official duties, engages in a sexual act with another person, not the officer's spouse, while the other person is under arrest, in custody or being interrogated or temporarily detained, including during a traffic stop or questioning pursuant to an investigation of a crime. The law subjects to disciplinary sanctions by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy an applicant or certificate holder who engages in sexual contact, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 251, subsection 1, paragraph D, with another person, not the person's spouse, if at the time of the sexual contact the applicant or certificate holder is acting in performance of official duties and the other person is under arrest, in custody or being interrogated or temporarily detained, including during a traffic stop or questioning pursuant to an investigation of a crime, except that it is not grounds for discipline that a certificate holder properly performs a search of a person for legitimate law enforcement purposes consistent with training standards approved by the board. The law also prohibits, as obstructing criminal prosecution, giving anything of benefit to another person with the intent to induce the other person to refrain from initiating or continuing with a criminal prosecution or juvenile proceeding or soliciting, accepting or agreeing to accept anything of benefit for those purposes.