

# 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  
LABOR AND HOUSING**

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 Labor and Housing***

allow members who retired on or after June 30, 2015, to pay the necessary member contributions to include in their retirement benefit calculations wages lost due to merit pay freezes and longevity pay freezes.

This bill authorizes a member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System who retired on or after March 1, 2014, and prior to June 30, 2015, to include in the member's retirement benefit calculations wages lost due to merit pay freezes, retroactive to the date of the member's retirement. This provision does not include lost wages due to longevity pay freezes.

**LD 1345      An Act To Ensure a Fair Workweek      ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>        | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MELARAGNO G<br>JACKSON T | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill requires employers who employ five or more employees in the State to provide hourly employees at least two weeks' prior notice of the employees' work schedules, with compensation owed for schedule changes under certain circumstances. The bill also requires these employers to keep certain business records for at least three years.

The bill provides that the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards may investigate possible violations and receive complaints of possible violations from the public. A fine of \$50 per day is due for any noncompliance. The Attorney General may also file a civil action seeking additional remedies. The department may adopt rules regarding compliance with and enforcement of these provisions, and the bureau is required to report to the Legislature periodically on violations of the law and the bureau's efforts.

**LD 1354      An Act To Eliminate the Penalties for State and Teacher Retirees Who Return to Employment      ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>          | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DESCHAMBAULT S<br>WARREN C | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill eliminates the provisions in law that limit employment of a retired state employee or teacher to five years and 75 percent of the compensation established for the position.

While LD 1354 was voted "Ought Not to Pass," the substantive provision of the bill was included in LD 1220, An Act To Remove Certain Restrictions Imposed on Retired State Employees Who Return to Work, which was enacted as Public Law 2019, chapter 436.

**LD 1355      An Act To Expand the 1998 Special Retirement Plan To Include Civilian Employees Who Work for the Department of Public Safety Crime Lab and Computer Crimes Unit      CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DIAMOND B         | OTP-AM                  | S-201                     |

This bill allows civilian employees in the employment of the Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police Crime Laboratory or computer crimes unit to elect to participate in the 1998 Special Plan of the Maine Public