

# 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  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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 State and Local Government*

**LD 1340 An Act To Require Criminal History Record Checks for All Prospective and Current Staff Members of the Office of the State Auditor**

**PUBLIC 416  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN D CLAXTON N	OTP-AM	H-420

This bill requires all employees of and persons who may be offered employment by the Office of the State Auditor to consent to having their fingerprints taken for criminal background checks conducted by the Department of Public Safety, which include state and federal criminal history record information from the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. This bill allows the Office of the State Auditor to request subsequent criminal background checks as the office determines appropriate and establishes provisions relating to confidentiality and use of the information and the rights of the subjects of the fingerprinting and criminal background checks.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-420)**

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to ensure the Office of the State Auditor may immediately meet the fingerprint background check requirements set in federal regulation. This amendment makes several minor changes to section 1 to bring this law into conformity with similar criminal background check laws in Maine statute. The amendment authorizes the State Bureau of Identification to obtain fingerprints and conduct state and national criminal history record checks for the Office of the State Auditor. This amendment removes conflicts in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 1542-A. This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 416 permits the Office of the State Auditor to require fingerprint based background checks for current and potential employees. It authorizes the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification to conduct fingerprint based criminal background checks for the Office of the State Auditor.

Public Law 2019, chapter 416 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 20, 2019.

**LD 1379 An Act To Increase the Annual Salary of the Governor and To Increase the Expense Allowance Paid to Legislators**

**ONTP**

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

This bill increases the Governor's salary from \$70,000 per year to \$150,000 per year beginning January 2023. This bill increases the legislative meal and housing allowances from \$32 and \$38 to \$50 and \$75, respectively. It also increases the mileage allowance from \$38 to \$75. The increases in the expense allowances for Legislators take effect December 2, 2020.

**LD 1391 An Act To Ensure Consistency of Language in Municipal Documents with the Language in Comprehensive Plans**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WADSWORTH N	ONTP	

*Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

This bill amends the laws governing growth management programs to require that a municipality or multimunicipal region ensure that the language and requirements in charters, ordinances, policies, codes, regulations, bylaws and documents setting out or assessing fees align with each other and meet the overall intent of a comprehensive plan approved by the municipality or multimunicipal region. It also amends the law to encourage the consideration of economic effects by municipalities in their planning.

**LD 1393     An Act To Change the Requirements for Recording Plans at the County  
                 Registries of Deeds**

**PUBLIC 439**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS N DAVIS P	OTP-AM	H-291

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing recording plans in a registry of deeds.

1. It reduces the minimum paper size for plans.
2. It requires that plans be submitted on white 20-pound paper.
3. It specifies that paper plans be rolled and not folded.
4. It authorizes the register of deeds to return plans that are not legible for recording and archival purposes and the processing of which may damage county equipment or resources.
5. It specifies the size of the block that the register uses to record certain information.
6. It changes the requirements for the handling of originals and copies by the register.
7. It requires each plan be microfilmed for archival purposes.
8. It eliminates the requirement for a register to establish standards for making copies of original plans.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-291)**

This amendment sets the 20-pound weight for paper as the minimum weight for recording plans at the county registries of deeds. The amendment requires that a digital image be at least 300 dots per inch or 300 pixels per inch. The amendment retains the last paragraph of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 33, section 652 in current law, which regards standards for the reproduction of copies.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 439 requires plans recorded with the registry of deeds and dated on or after January 1, 2020, be submitted on white paper with a minimum weight of 20 pounds. It requires that the plans be rolled and not folded. It requires the registry of deeds create a digital image of such plans at a minimum of 300 dots per inch or 300 pixels per inch and maintain a copy of public inspection in paper or digital image form. It requires each plan be microfilmed for archival purposes.