

# 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  
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

August 2019

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# STATE OF MAINE

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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 Veterans and Legal Affairs

individual's change of name or address, if any. An individual who is not qualified to be a registered voter but who becomes a registered voter by operation of the automatic registration is exempted from liability as long as that individual has not knowingly or willfully provided false information.

The Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles is automatically designated a "source agency" through which automatic voter registration takes place. The Secretary of State may designate another state agency or department or another entity designated by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 as a source agency, as long as the Secretary of State verifies that the department, agency or entity collects documents that provide proof of voter eligibility as part of its normal course of business.

Public Law 2019, chapter 409 also requires the Secretary of State to audit the central voter registration system for quality of data prior to implementation of automatic voter registration and periodically thereafter and to adopt routine technical rules to implement the new automatic voter registration system. The Secretary of State is further required to submit, by January 1, 2020, a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs on the progress made toward implementing automatic voter registration and the estimated time required to complete all activities necessary for implementation. The Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature based on the report.

Finally, effective January 1, 2020, Public Law 2019, chapter 409 lowers from 17 years of age to 16 years of age the age at which a person may submit a conditional registration to vote and to enroll in a political party.

**LD 1477**

### **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Facilitate the Use of Ranked-choice Voting for Governor and Members of the Legislature**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COOPER J MIRAMANT D	OTP-AM ONTP	H-236

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature, or the people by using the direct initiative, to determine whether a general election for the Governor, a State Senator or a State Representative should be decided by a plurality or a majority of the votes.

#### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-236)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, allows the Legislature, or the people using the direct initiative, to establish the method for determining the winners of general elections for Governor, State Senators and State Representatives. The amendment also clarifies that, after local officials form records of the votes received in a general election for Representatives, Senators and Governor, the ballots may be forwarded to the Secretary of State at the direction of the Secretary of State, rather than to the Governor as in the resolution.

This resolution was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

**LD 1493**

### **An Act To Exempt Cribbage and Other Card Games from Licensing and Regulation When Conducted by Certain Organizations**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANBORN H	ONTP	