

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 TRANSPORTATION

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 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.

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

6. Reduces the driver's license fees for persons 65 years of age and over by \$1 to provide equity in the fees assessed on driver's licenses issued to this demographic.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-164)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 352 does the following:

1. Increases the one-time fee for an out-of-rotation registration plate and for a reserved registration number from \$15 to \$25, the same as for a vanity registration plate fee;
2. Increases the registration transfer fee for a trailer under 2,000 pounds from \$5 to \$8, making the fee the same as for other registration transfers;
3. Increases the motorcycle rider education school and instructor license fees to match fees for other business licenses issued by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, such as certain dealer licenses;
4. Increases driver education school and instructor license fees to match other business license fees;
5. Increases the fee for a duplicate registration certificate from \$2 to \$5; and
6. Reduces the driver's license fees for persons 65 years of age and over by \$1 to provide equity in the fees assessed on driver's licenses issued to this demographic.

LD 1533 An Act To Eliminate Registration Plate Decals

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
MCLEAN A

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill eliminates the requirement that the Secretary of State must issue annual registration plates or decals.

It repeals language setting the price for replacement decals for plates at 50¢ each.

It repeals a provision that makes it a Class E crime to attach or display on a vehicle registration plate a decal issued for another vehicle.

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

LD 1555 An Act To Improve Highway Maintenance Safety

PUBLIC 327

Sponsor(s)
DIAMOND B
MCLEAN A

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-206

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

This bill amends current law to allow vehicles engaged in highway maintenance or in emergency rescue operations by emergency management and public safety agencies and public service vehicles to be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a combination of amber and white lights or any shade between amber and white. It also allows the use of green lighting for any highway maintenance vehicle that is operating under the direction of the Department of Transportation or the Maine Turnpike Authority.

This bill also amends current law to allow the Maine Turnpike Authority to remove a vehicle from the Maine Turnpike if it is improperly parked, abandoned or interfering with snow removal in the same manner that the Department of Transportation may remove such a vehicle on a road under its jurisdiction. It also clarifies that a third-party agent such as an independent contractor working for the Department of Transportation or the Maine Turnpike Authority is entitled to the same immunity from liability for these removals as employees of the department or authority.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-206)

This amendment clarifies that a municipal public works vehicle or vehicle operating under direction of the Department of Transportation or the Maine Turnpike Authority may be equipped with green, white or amber auxiliary lights, which may be located on the front, rear or sides of the vehicle and may flash, oscillate, strobe or blink. This amendment also makes minor technical changes to section 2 of the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 327 amends current law to allow vehicles engaged in highway maintenance or in emergency rescue operations by emergency management and public safety agencies and public service vehicles to be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a combination of amber and white lights or any shade between amber and white. It also allows the use of green lighting for any highway maintenance vehicle that is operating under the direction of the Department of Transportation or the Maine Turnpike Authority.

This law also amends current law to allow the Maine Turnpike Authority to remove a vehicle from the Maine Turnpike if it is improperly parked, abandoned or interfering with snow removal in the same manner that the Department of Transportation may remove such a vehicle on a road under its jurisdiction. It also clarifies that a third-party agent such as an independent contractor working for the Department of Transportation or the Maine Turnpike Authority is entitled to the same immunity from liability for these removals as employees of the department or authority.

LD 1576 An Act To Improve the Department of Corrections' Response to Emergency Situations by Amending Provisions Related to Vehicles Operated by Certain Department Employees

PUBLIC 319

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PICKETT R DESCHAMBAULT S	OTP-AM	H-455

This bill amends the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" in the motor vehicle laws to include a Department of Corrections vehicle operated by an investigative officer or other employee of the department who is certified by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a law enforcement officer.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-455)

This amendment expands the definition of an authorized emergency vehicle to include a Department of Corrections vehicle operated by a person certified by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a law enforcement officer and allows a person certified by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a law enforcement officer who is operating a Department of Corrections vehicle to exceed the maximum speed