

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
LABOR AND HOUSING**

August 2019

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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 Labor and Housing

3. The prevention of construction delays;
4. The safety and quality of the public works project;
5. The advancement of minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses; and
6. Employment opportunities for the community.

This law also requires that a project labor agreement required by a public authority:

1. Set forth mutually binding procedures for resolving disputes that can be implemented without delay;
2. Include guarantees against a strike, lockout or other concerted action aimed at slowing or stopping the progress of the public works project;
3. Ensure a reliable source of skilled and experienced labor;
4. Include goals for the number of apprentices and for a percentage of work to be performed by minorities, women and veterans;
5. Provide for the invitation of all contractors to bid on the public works project without regard to whether the employees of any such contractor are members of a labor organization;
6. Permit the selection of the lowest responsible qualified bidder without regard to labor organization affiliation; and
7. Bind all contractors and subcontractors to the terms of the agreement.

This law specifies that a project labor agreement required by a public authority may not require compulsory labor organization membership of employees working on the public works project.

Lastly, this law specifies that a bidder for a public works project that does not agree to abide by the conditions of a project labor agreement or refuses to negotiate a project labor agreement may not be regarded as a responsible qualified bidder for the project.

LD 1572 **An Act To Enact the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act**

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill establishes the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act, the purpose of which is to ensure that a person is not denied housing based solely on the existence of a history of criminal convictions. This bill prohibits a housing provider from considering an applicant's criminal history until after the housing provider determines that the applicant meets all other qualifications for tenancy.

Under this bill, a person who is aggrieved by a violation of the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act by a housing provider may file a grievance with the Maine Human Rights Commission and, if it is a violation by a private housing provider, may bring a civil action in court.

Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

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

LD 1588 An Act To Create a Registration Process and Permits for Vacation Rentals **ONTP**

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

Current law exempts private homes, when not more than 5 rooms are let in that home, and cottages and rooms, when not more than three rooms or cottages are let, from licensing as a lodging place. This bill retains that exemption from licensing for such places, but considers them vacation rentals and requires the owner of a vacation rental to register the vacation rental with the Department of Health and Human Services and obtain a permit. The permit is issued on an annual basis for a fee of no more than \$50. The department is required to establish and maintain a vacation rental registry. A vacation rental is defined in current law as a residential property that is rented for vacation, leisure or recreation purposes for a day, a week or a month, and typically under 30 days but not for more than an entire summer or winter season, to a person who has a place of permanent residence to which the person intends to return.

This bill also makes nonsubstantive grammatical changes to reflect current drafting standards.

LD 1600 An Act To Support E-9-1-1 Dispatchers and Corrections Officers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILLINGHAM K HAMPER J	ONTP	

This bill adds corrections officers and E-9-1-1 dispatchers to the list of employees for whom there is a rebuttable presumption under the laws governing workers' compensation that when the employee is diagnosed by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist as having post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from work stress that was extraordinary and unusual, the post-traumatic stress disorder is presumed to have arisen out of and in the course of the worker's employment.

LD 1605 An Act To Provide Fair Contracts in the Logging Industry **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARPENTER M	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to ensure fairness in wood harvesting contracts.