

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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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

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

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

limits as long as life or property is not endangered.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 319 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 limits as long as life or property is not endangered.

LD 1578 An Act To Improve Administration of the Maine Aeronautical Advisory Board and the Public Transit Advisory Council

**PUBLIC 211
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHEATS B FARRIN B	OTP	

This bill changes the membership of the Maine Aeronautical Advisory Board and provides for staggered terms. It provides that the Commissioner of Transportation serves as a nonvoting secretary and clerk of the board and authorizes the board to adopt bylaws.

The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to designate as voting members of the Public Transit Advisory Council those persons the commissioner is required to invite to participate in council meetings. It provides for staggered terms, requires the council to meet at least once per year and authorizes the council to adopt bylaws. It also changes the reporting requirements for the council.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 211 changes the membership of the Maine Aeronautical Advisory Board and provides for staggered terms. It provides that the Commissioner of Transportation serves as a nonvoting secretary and clerk of the board and authorizes the board to adopt bylaws.

The law authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to designate as voting members of the Public Transit Advisory Council those persons the commissioner is required to invite to participate in council meetings. It provides for staggered terms, requires the council to meet at least once per year and authorizes the council to adopt bylaws. It also changes the reporting requirements for the council.

Public Law 2019, chapter 211 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 6, 2019.

LD 1627 An Act To Authorize the Use of Autocycles

PUBLIC 345

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRYANT M MIRAMANT D	OTP-AM	H-487

This bill defines an autocycle as a three-wheeled motorcycle that has a steering wheel or handlebars, floor pedals for automotive-style controls and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride a seat and establishes provisions for registration and operator licensing.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-487)

This amendment clarifies that an autocycle is subject to the general motorcycle inspection standards, except those that do not apply to the design of the vehicle, and any other inspection standards set by the Chief of the State Police.