

# 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 AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

August 2019

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**STAFF:**

KAREN S. NADEAU, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

# 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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry***

This bill amends the laws governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by requiring the commission to coordinate with neighboring municipalities by engaging in regional land use planning and directing future development into the communities where possible and consistent with municipal comprehensive land use plans. In order to ensure that the commission has current, critical data necessary for regional planning, the bill directs the commission to conduct a land use structure inventory by July 1, 2020. The bill also changes the appointment process for members of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to ensure that a statewide perspective and relevant areas of expertise are represented on the commission.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-183)**

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, changes the title of the bill and changes the bill into a resolve requiring the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on or before January 15, 2020 regarding the commission's adoption of rules relating to the adjacency principle and subdivision standards for land use districts. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

**LD 1574      An Act To Continue Authorization of Seaplane Landings on Katahdin Lake      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLLINGS B DILL J	ONTP	

This bill allows a seaplane to land on and take off from Katahdin Lake in Baxter State Park.

**LD 1590      An Act To Amend the Laws Relating to Harness Racing      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAREAN D		

This bill amends the harness racing laws in the following ways.

1. It requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop a biennial operating budget for the State Harness Racing Commission with input from the commission that allows for expenditures for discretionary activities by the commission during the biennium if the commission determines the activities are in the best interest of the harness racing industry.
2. It protects the Harness Racing Promotional Fund from being charged for indirect costs under a departmental indirect cost allocation plan.
3. It requires a harness racing license application of a pari-mutuel betting licensee who leases a racing plant to list financial and corporate information of the owner of the real estate.
4. It requires the commission, when assigning race dates to licensees, to consider the development of revenues from interstate simulcasting, the ability to offer night racing and the ability to maintain ownership of or a leasehold on facilities.
5. It changes the definition of "commercial track" for regions with a population of 300,000 or more and with a

***Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry***

population of less than 300,000 by removing language for racetracks that have ceased operations.

6. It provides that an off-track betting facility within a 50-mile radius of a commercial track must pay one percent of the wagers made during the time live racing is being conducted on race day and 0.5 percent of the wagers made during the time that live racing is not being conducted on race day.

7. It allows an off-track betting facility to be located within a facility licensed to serve alcohol that is owned by an owner other than the off-track betting facility owner.

8. It removes the requirement that an applicant for an off-track betting license notify commercial tracks within 50 miles of the proposed off-track betting facility.

9. It provides that an applicant for an off-track betting license must notify and allow objections from existing off-track betting facilities within 15 miles of the proposed off-track betting facility, instead of within 35 miles as in current law.

10. It changes the date of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's annual report to the Legislature on off-track betting from January 1st to March 1st.

11. It provides for reduced payments from revenues derived by an off-track betting facility first licensed after January 1, 2019 that is owned by a federally recognized Indian tribe and is located and operated in an establishment licensed to serve alcohol.

12. It allows an agricultural fair licensee to qualify for funds from the fund to supplement harness racing purses by conducting an extended meet, removing the requirement that the licensee must have conducted an extended meet in 2005.

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

**LD 1610      Resolve, To Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of  
Carrabassett Valley**

**RESOLVE 73**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SKOLFELD T BLACK R	OTP-AM	H-434

This resolve amends the deed transferring land from the State to the Town of Carrabassett Valley to remove the prohibition on camping in motor vehicles.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-434)**

This amendment clarifies that camping, including commercial camping, is an acceptable use of the property as long as development plans for commercial camping are approved by the State.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2019, chapter 73 amends the deed transferring land from the State to the Town of Carrabassett Valley to remove the prohibition on camping in motor vehicles. The resolve also clarifies that camping, including commercial camping, is an acceptable use of the property as long as development plans for commercial camping are approved by the State.