

# 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 INNOVATION,  
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT  
AND BUSINESS**

August 2019

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# 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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business***

Public law 2019, chapter 305 strikes a provision regarding the Pine Tree Development Zone program that establishes the specific date of January 15, 2021 by which the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability must complete a review of the program. This provision is unnecessary as current law already provides that the Government Oversight Committee establish a schedule for the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to conduct reviews of tax expenditure programs based on priority and the grouping of programs with similar goals.

**LD 1640    An Act To Exempt Auctioneers from Certain Record-keeping Requirements**

**PUBLIC 279**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HERBIG E CUDDY S	OTP	

This bill exempts auctioneers from the requirement to record the date of purchase, the seller's name and address and a brief description of the property, including any identification numbers, before completing the purchase of any used personal property.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 279 exempts auctioneers from the requirement to record the date of purchase, the seller's name and address and a brief description of the property, including any identification numbers, before completing the purchase of any used personal property.

**LD 1685    An Act To Facilitate Entry of Immigrants into the Workforce**

**PUBLIC 447**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLOUTIER K LIBBY N	OTP-AM	H-416

This bill establishes and provides funding for the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program, to be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. Under the program, the authority may provide interest-free loans to foreign-educated or foreign-trained, experienced immigrants who need assistance while awaiting federal employment authorization to pay the costs of certain actions and activities that will improve their work-readiness once they receive their work permits.

To be eligible for assistance, individuals must have filed an application or petition with federal immigration authorities that entitles the individual to request a work permit, but have not yet received or been denied a work permit.

Funds are awarded directly to the individual pursuant to a contract established by the authority providing that the awardee use the funds only for eligible costs, that the awardee repay the loan in compliance with the terms and conditions established by the authority, that the awardee retain recipients for eligible expenditures, that breach of contract may require immediate loan repayment and other terms and conditions established by the authority.

Loans may not exceed \$700, though this limit may be adjusted at least biannually to reflect inflation or cost of living or other adjustments.

Loans must be repaid within 18 months of disbursement and no earlier than 60 days after the individual has obtained a work permit and 30 days after employment is obtained, though extensions may be granted and may

***Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business***

include up to a 5% administrative fee.

The bill provides that the authority may adopt routine technical rules to carry out the program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-416)**

This amendment clarifies language regarding applications for work permits, making it clear that individuals with pending applications for work permits are eligible for the program, and makes technical edits to the bill.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public law 2019, chapter 447 establishes and provides funding for the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program, to be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. Under the program, the authority may provide interest-free loans to foreign-educated or foreign-trained, experienced immigrants who need assistance while awaiting federal employment authorization to pay the costs of certain actions and activities that will improve their work-readiness once they receive their work permits.

To be eligible for assistance, individuals must have filed an application or petition with federal immigration authorities that entitles the individual to request a work permit, but have not yet received or been denied a work permit.

Funds are awarded directly to the individual pursuant to a contract established by the authority providing that the awardee use the funds only for eligible costs, that the awardee repay the loan in compliance with the terms and conditions established by the authority, that the awardee retain recipients for eligible expenditures, that breach of contract may require immediate loan repayment and other terms and conditions established by the authority.

Loans may not exceed \$700, though this limit may be adjusted at least biannually to reflect inflation or cost of living or other adjustments.

Loans must be repaid within 18 months of disbursement and no earlier than 60 days after the individual has obtained a work permit and 30 days after employment is obtained, though extensions may be granted and may include up to a 5% administrative fee.

The law provides that the authority may adopt routine technical rules to carry out the program.

**LD 1690     An Act To Certify and Promote Products That Are Made in Maine**

**CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)

JACKSON T

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to create a "Maine Made" certification depicted by a seal or a stamp placed upon products produced in the State and used or marketed worldwide to promote the products. The certification would be used in conjunction with or in substitution for the current Maine Made America's Best program administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development, office of business development and innovation.

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