

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

STAFF:

SAMUEL W. PRAWER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
AND
SUZANNE VOYNIK, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW
5 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1635
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

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STATE OF MAINE

129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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 amendment also clarifies that an autocycle may not be operated abreast with any motor vehicle within the same lane.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 345 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.

LD 1682 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Removal of Unlawful Signs

PUBLIC 228

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCLEAN A DIAMOND B	OTP	

This bill further restricts the placement of categorical signs by prohibiting their erection on trees, in control-of-access areas, within medians less than 6 feet in width and on islands within a rotary. The bill reduces the number of days the owner of a sign erected in violation of the law has to remove the sign from 30 days to 14 days after notice and clarifies that the notice may be sent by the agency having control of the public way in which the sign has been erected.

The bill requires the Department of Transportation to remove any sign that has been placed in violation of the law if the public right-of-way is a state or state aid highway that is not within an urban compact municipality; the department may remove any sign on a public right-of-way for public safety purposes. A municipality may remove any sign that has been placed in violation of the law on a town way or state or state aid highway that is in an urban compact municipality within that municipality's jurisdiction.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 228 restricts the placement of categorical signs by prohibiting their erection on trees, in control-of-access areas, within medians less than 6 feet in width and on islands within a rotary. It reduces the number of days the owner of a sign erected in violation of the law has to remove the sign from 30 days to 14 days after notice and clarifies that the notice may be sent by the agency having control of the public way in which the sign has been erected.

The law requires the Department of Transportation to remove any sign that has been placed in violation of the law if the public right-of-way is a state or state aid highway that is not within an urban compact municipality; the department may remove any sign on a public right-of-way for public safety purposes. A municipality may remove any sign that has been placed in violation of the law on a town way or state or state aid highway that is in an urban compact municipality within that municipality's jurisdiction.

LD 1710 An Act To Enact the Automated Driving Safety Act

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCLEAN A	ONTP	

This bill establishes the Automated Driving Safety Act, which provides standards for the registration of automated vehicles, the licensure of automated vehicle operators and the liability of the operators and providers of automated vehicles, including:

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

1. Defining a provider for an automated vehicle as an individual, organization or joint enterprise that controls an automated driving system of an automated vehicle for testing or deployment of the automated vehicle on a public way;
2. Requiring the Secretary of State to record on the automated vehicle's registration that the vehicle is an automated vehicle and the identity of the provider for the automated vehicle;
3. Requiring the Secretary of State to terminate the registration or refuse to register or renew a registration of an automated vehicle that has been modified or has had its automated driving system modified or that the Secretary of State determines is unsafe or unfit for operation on a public way;
4. Providing that the automated vehicle has two operators, an individual operator when the automated driving system is not engaged and the provider as the operator when the automated driving system is engaged, and, under most instances, that the applicable operator is responsible for the proper operation of the automated vehicle and is liable for an infraction, offense or negligence resulting in bodily injury, death or property damage; and
5. Requiring, if an automated vehicle is involved in an accident while the automated driving system is engaged, that pursuant to the provisions of law regarding motor vehicle accident reports, the automated vehicle not be moved and that the provider immediately contact the applicable law enforcement agency, inform the law enforcement agency that the automated driving system was engaged at the time of the accident and transmit electronically or by the fastest means available the financial responsibility information required for the vehicle.

LD 1714 *Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State To Enter into a Reciprocal Agreement between the State and Taiwan Regarding Driver's Licenses* CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEWART T KEIM L		

This resolve directs the Secretary of State to begin negotiations toward the development of a reciprocal agreement between the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles and Taiwan for reciprocity, beginning January 1, 2021, in issuing driver's licenses to residents of this State who reside in Taiwan and to Taiwanese citizens who reside in this State.

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

LD 1769 *An Act To Make Various Changes to the Motor Vehicle Laws* PUBLIC 335

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCLEAN A	OTP-AM	H-515

This bill amends the motor vehicle laws in the following ways.

1. It amends the law governing motor vehicle frame end heights to increase dimensions for current weight ranges of vehicles. It also adds vehicles from 11,501 pounds to 13,000 pounds, which may have frame end heights of 32 inches in the front and 34 inches in the rear.
2. It establishes that a vehicle owned by the Department of Public Safety may be equipped with blue emergency lighting and a siren, but neither the lighting nor the siren may be displayed or used except when the vehicle is being