

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION,
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT
AND BUSINESS**

November 2020

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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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and
Business***

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.

LD 1821 Resolve, To Address the Population Shortage in Rural Maine

ONTP

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

This resolve was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to work with the Northern Border Regional Commission in the establishment of a program to recruit working families to relocate to rural areas of the State.

**LD 1891 An Act To Protect Maine Propane Consumers upon the Termination of
an Agreement between a Dealer and a Consumer**

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MATLACK A	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill provides that upon the termination of an agreement between a propane dealer and a customer, the propane dealer must compensate the customer for the propane remaining in the customer's tank at a rate equal to the market price of the propane on the date that the agreement is terminated or the price that the customer paid for the propane, whichever is less, if the customer has paid for the propane, the amount of propane is more than five gallons and the customer has not received such compensation in the previous 12 months.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-779)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill. It provides that, upon the termination of an agreement between a propane dealer and a consumer, when the consumer has paid for the propane in the tank and when the consumer owns the propane tank, the propane dealer must allow the consumer to use the remaining propane. At the request of the consumer, the propane dealer must pump out the remaining propane from the consumer's tank and must compensate the consumer at a rate equal to the market price of the propane on the date that the agreement is terminated or the price that the consumer paid for the propane, whichever is less.

The amendment also provides that, upon the termination of an agreement between a propane dealer and a consumer, when the consumer has paid for the propane in the tank and when the propane dealer owns the propane tank, the propane dealer must provide the consumer with the option of either using the remaining propane within 90 days of termination of the agreement or receiving compensation from the dealer for the propane remaining in the tank at a rate equal to the market price of the propane on the date that the agreement is terminated or the price that the consumer paid for the propane, whichever is less. If there is propane remaining in the tank after more than 90 days have passed following the date of termination of the agreement, the propane dealer, upon reasonable advance notice to the consumer, may pump out the propane remaining in the tank and remove the tank. The propane dealer must compensate the consumer for the remaining propane at a rate equal to the market price of the propane on the date that the agreement is terminated or at the price that the consumer paid for the propane, whichever is less.

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

The amendment includes language making clear that a propane dealer is not prevented from charging a reasonable fee to a consumer to remove a tank that the propane dealer owns or from charging a reasonable fee to a consumer to pump out propane remaining in a tank owned by the consumer or the propane dealer upon the termination of an agreement.

This bill, which had been reported out of committee but not yet taken up by the House or the Senate, was carried over to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1924 An Act To Amend the Real Estate Appraisal Management Company PUBLIC 641
Laws

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

Current law prohibits a real estate appraisal management company from removing, without written notice to the affected appraiser, an appraiser from its appraiser panel except within the first 30 days after the appraiser has been added to the panel. This bill removes the exception that authorizes removal without notice within the first 30 days after being added to the panel.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 641 eliminates the exception allowing a real estate appraisal management to remove, without written notice to the affected appraiser, the appraiser from its appraiser panel within the first 30 days after the appraiser has been added to the panel. It also requires a real estate management company to provide prior written notice to newly added appraisers, to identify the reasons why the appraiser is being removed from the appraiser panel and to provide an opportunity for the appraiser to respond to the notification, as is required prior to removal of other appraisers from appraiser panels.

LD 1933 An Act To Promote Bulk Retail Purchasing CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MORALES V		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to allow retail establishments to permit customers to supply their own containers for the purchase of certain food items.

This bill, which had been voted but not yet reported out of committee, was carried over in committee to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1977 An Act To Ensure a Consumer's Right To Repair Certain Electronic CARRIED OVER
Products

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