

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 TRANSPORTATION

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 Transportation

This bill amends the laws governing motor vehicle child restraint systems to provide exceptions for children who exceed a manufacturer's recommended height limit and for children who have a medical condition that necessitates a different child restraint system.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-382)

This amendment does the following.

1. It requires that a child restraint system for children two years of age or older and weighing less than 55 pounds must have an internal harness.
2. It clarifies that children less than eight years of age who weigh less than 80 pounds and are less than 57 inches in height must be properly secured in a belt positioning seat or other child restraint system.
3. It clarifies that a child with a medical condition that, in the written opinion of a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or child passenger safety technician with special needs training, necessitates that a different child restraint system be used is required to be secured in a child restraint system recommended in the opinion.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 577 does the following.

1. It requires that a child restraint system for children two years of age or older and weighing less than 55 pounds must have an internal harness.
2. It clarifies that children less than eight years of age who weigh less than 80 pounds and are less than 57 inches in height must be properly secured in a belt positioning seat or other child restraint system.
3. It clarifies that a child with a medical condition that, in the written opinion of a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or child passenger safety technician with special needs training, necessitates that a different child restraint system be used is required to be secured in a child restraint system recommended in the opinion.

LD 1901 An Act To Amend the Laws Prohibiting the Use of Handheld Phones and Devices While Driving

**PUBLIC 579
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DIAMOND B	OTP-AM	S-386

This bill simplifies the definition of "handheld electronic device" in recently enacted law prohibiting the use of handheld electronic devices while driving. It adds parking areas to the places where the use of mobile telephones and handheld electronic devices while driving is prohibited. It changes the penalty provisions to provide a fine of \$50 for the first offense and \$250 for a second or subsequent offense.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-386)

This amendment removes parking areas from the places where using a handheld electronic device while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited and restores the exemption for devices utilizing "push to talk" features from the prohibition on the use of handheld electronic devices.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 579 simplifies the definition of "handheld electronic device" in recently enacted law

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

prohibiting the use of handheld electronic devices while driving, and it changes the penalty provisions to provide a fine of \$50 for the first offense and \$250 for a second or subsequent offense.

Public Law 2019, chapter 579 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 6, 2020.

LD 1927 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Erect and Maintain Markers To Commemorate and Recognize the Lafayette Trail CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DESCHAMBAULT S	OTP-AM ONTP	S-427

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to erect and maintain suitable signs and other markers at or near each portion of the route followed by the Marquis de Lafayette while he was in Maine, to be designated the Lafayette Trail.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-427)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. This amendment, which replaces the resolve, specifically designates each portion of the Lafayette Trail for the purposes of the placement of suitable signs and markers by the Department of Transportation.

This resolve was carried over on the Special Highway Table to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1966 An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Parking for Vehicles with Disability Placards and Plates PUBLIC 648

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MOONEN M	OTP-AM	H-735

Current law authorizes a vehicle with a disability placard or registration plate to park at a parking meter with no charge. This bill extends this authorization to public ways and other parking areas administered by municipalities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-735)

This amendment allows a vehicle that exhibits a permanent placard, a temporary placard or a disability registration plate to park at a parking area that is not a parking facility free of charge and for twice the time limit otherwise allowed.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 648 allows a vehicle that exhibits a permanent placard, a temporary placard or a disability registration plate to park at a parking area that is not a parking facility free of charge and for twice the time limit otherwise allowed.