

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
LABOR AND HOUSING**

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 Labor and Housing

LD 1909 An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Maine

CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GATTINE D | OTP-AM | H-680 |

This bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$3,000,000 per year to the Shelter Operating Subsidy program within the Maine State Housing Authority to support operations and capacity at low-barrier emergency homeless shelters across the State. This bill specifies that the funding is supplemental to the Maine State Housing Authority's emergency shelter and housing assistance program and is to be delivered outside of the funding formula set forth in the Maine State Housing Authority's rule under 99-346 C.M.R. Chapter 19, Homeless Solutions Rule.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-680)

This amendment expands the use of funds to support shelter operations at all emergency homeless shelters, not just low-barrier emergency shelters as proposed in the bill. It also allows the Maine State Housing Authority to allocate funds to shelters using the funding formula methodology for shelter operations from its Homeless Solutions Rule.

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

LD 1911 An Act To Amend the Unemployment Compensation Laws

**PUBLIC 585
EMERGENCY**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BELLOWSS | OTP-AM | S-388 |

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing unemployment compensation.

1. Current law provides that, beginning January 1, 2022, benefits paid to an individual under the laws governing unemployment compensation must be charged against the experience rating record of the claimant's employers in a ratio inversely proportional to the claimant's employment beginning with the most recent employer. This bill strikes that language and instead restores the previous language governing the employer benefit charging model.
2. It provides that the experience rating record of the most recent subject employer may not be charged with benefits paid to a claimant whose work record with that employer totals five or fewer consecutive weeks.
3. It provides that, in the absence of an application for redetermination filed within 30 days after the mailing of notification of benefits paid and chargeable to the employer's experience rating, the notification is conclusive and binding. Under the bill, any request for reconsideration must be made under the laws governing appeals of determination or assessment.
4. It replaces references to the Unemployment Insurance Commission with references to the Division of Administrative Hearings to conform with changes made in Public Law 2017, chapter 284, Part AAAAA.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-388)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.