

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

November 2020

**STAFF:**

JANET STOCCO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
DANIEL TARTAKOFF, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. LOUIS J. LUCHINI, CHAIR  
SEN. ERIN D. HERBIG  
SEN. SCOTT W. CYRWAY

REP. JOHN C. SCHNECK, CHAIR  
REP. JANICE E. COOPER  
REP. CRAIG V. HICKMAN  
REP. BRIAN L. HUBBELL\*  
REP. JOYCE "JAY" MCCREIGHT  
REP. KEVIN O'CONNELL\*  
REP. SCOTT WALTER STROM  
REP. SHELDON MARK HANINGTON  
REP. JOHN ANDREWS  
REP. JOSANNE C. DOLLOFF  
REP. KENT ACKLEY

\*Committee member for a portion of the session

# STATE OF MAINE

129<sup>TH</sup> 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 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 Veterans and Legal Affairs

3. It moves the deadline for a uniformed service voter or an overseas voter to register to vote or request an absentee ballot from 5:00 p.m. on election day to 5:00 p.m. on the day before election day.
4. It resolves an inconsistency in the law by shortening the time that municipalities have to submit their official election returns to the Secretary of State from three business days to two business days after the election, and it moves the provision for sending a courier to retrieve delinquent returns to the same section of law as the deadline for filing those returns.
5. If early processing of absentee ballots will occur, it requires the municipal clerk to post the notice of early processing of absentee ballots with the notice of election.
6. It specifies that the telephone numbers and email addresses of the applicant and the five additional registered voters required to be listed on the application by law must be included in an application for a direct initiative or people's veto referendum and provides that the Secretary of State will send all notices to those individuals related to the relevant direct initiative or people's veto referendum by e-mail only.
7. It requires that the full text and summary of a direct initiative, which must be included in the application for a direct initiative, must be submitted to the Secretary of State in both printed and electronic format.
8. It makes a technical change to the law governing municipal elections by removing language requiring ballots to be printed so that voters mark their choices in squares printed to the left of each candidate's name and substituting language authorizing ballots to be printed in any way that allows the voter to designate the voter's choice.

### **LD 1926**    **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System**

**PUBLIC 601**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINIL	OTP-AM	S-411

This bill, submitted by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, clarifies the requirements for eligibility for burial in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System for veterans and their dependents by amending the definitions of "eligible veteran" and "eligible dependent" to more closely align with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' guidelines. This change is designed to ensure that the State remains eligible to receive burial plot allowances from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans buried in the state cemetery system.

#### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-411)**

The bill amends the definition of "eligible veteran" with respect to eligibility for burial in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. That definition of "eligible veteran" is also employed in current law to define veteran eligibility for temporary financial assistance. This amendment, which is the unanimous report of the committee, amends the statute governing the temporary financial assistance program by removing the cross-reference to the definition of "eligible veteran" in the cemetery statute and replacing it with the definition of "veteran" that is currently used in the rules governing the temporary financial assistance program to determine eligibility for assistance under that program.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 601 clarifies the requirements for eligibility for burial in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System for veterans and their dependents by amending the definitions of "eligible veteran" and "eligible dependent" to more closely align with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' guidelines. This change is designed to ensure that the State remains eligible to receive burial plot allowances from the federal Department of

## Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Veterans Affairs for veterans buried in the state cemetery system.

Public Law 2019, chapter 601 also amends the statute governing temporary financial assistance for veterans by removing the cross-reference to the definition of "eligible veteran" in the cemetery statute and replacing it with the definition of "veteran" that is currently used in the rules governing the temporary financial assistance program to determine eligibility for assistance under that program.

**LD 1952      Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Project To Provide Support Services for Military Members Transitioning to Civilian Life in Maine      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TERRY M	OTP-AM ONTP	H-687

This bill provides ongoing funding for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to provide personalized and proactive support for active duty military members who are transitioning to civilian life in Maine and their families.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-687)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes the bill and replaces it with a resolve. The resolve directs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, to establish a two-year pilot project to conduct outreach and to provide support services for active duty military members who are transitioning to civilian life in the State and their families.

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

**LD 1968      An Act To Restrict Maine Clean Election Act Candidates from Seeking or Accepting Employment with Vendors      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ACKLEY K CHENETTE J		

This bill prohibits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate from soliciting or accepting employment from an individual, business or nonprofit entity to whom the candidate paid \$10,000 or more in connection with the candidate's campaign for office. This prohibition begins on the date that the candidate is certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate and ends three years after the date of the general election for that office.

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