

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
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

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 Veterans and Legal Affairs

LD 1988 An Act To Prohibit the Distribution of Deceptive Images or Audio or Video Recordings with the Intent To Influence the Outcome of an Election

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT R FECTEAUR		

This bill, which is based on a recently enacted California law, prohibits a person from publishing or distributing, with actual malice and within 60 days of the date of an election, materially deceptive audio or visual media of a candidate who will appear on the ballot with the intent to injure the candidate's reputation or to deceive a voter into voting for or against the candidate. The bill defines "materially deceptive audio or visual media" as an image or an audio or video recording of a candidate that has been intentionally manipulated in a way that would cause a reasonable person to mistakenly believe that the image or recording is authentic and that would cause the person to have a fundamentally different understanding or impression of the content of the image or recording than the person would have if the image or recording was unaltered. An image or audio or video recording that constitutes satire or parody is not considered materially deceptive audio or visual media. The bill authorizes a candidate whose voice or image appears in materially deceptive audio or visual media to bring a civil action seeking injunctive relief or monetary damages. In such an action, the candidate bears the burden of proving the violation by clear and convincing evidence.

The bill's prohibition against the distribution of materially deceptive audio or visual media does not apply if the materially deceptive audio or visual media is accompanied by a disclosure indicating that the image or audio or video recording has been manipulated; distributed as part of a news broadcast that includes a clear statement that there are questions about the authenticity of the image or audio or video recording; broadcast by a radio or television broadcasting station that has been paid to broadcast the materially deceptive audio or visual media; or published by an Internet website or regularly published newspaper, magazine or other periodical, as long as the materially deceptive audio or visual media is accompanied by a statement that it does not accurately represent the speech or conduct of the candidate.

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.

LD 1997 An Act To Allow the Assignment of State Vehicles to Field Personnel Directly Concerned with Maine National Guard Facilities and To Allow State Vehicles Assigned to Military Bureau Employees To Be Used for Commuting

PUBLIC 578

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINIL	OTP-AM	S-380

This bill, submitted by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, allows the assignment of state vehicles to field personnel directly concerned with the maintenance and operation of Maine National Guard facilities who are frequently called for emergency duty outside of regular hours. It also allows Military Bureau employees designated by the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to use state vehicles to commute between home and work.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Committee Amendment "A" (S-380)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 578 allows the assignment of state vehicles to field personnel directly concerned with the maintenance and operation of Maine National Guard facilities who are frequently called for emergency duty outside of regular hours. It also allows Military Bureau employees designated by the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to use state vehicles to commute between home and work.

LD 2002 An Act To Improve Compliance with Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Marijuana Policy Registration and Licensure Requirements CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAILEY D		

This bill, submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, does the following.

Part A authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to collect and use the social security numbers of applicants to ensure that only one registry identification card is issued to each participant under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act.

Part B authorizes the office of marijuana policy within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to collect and use the social security numbers of applicants to ensure that only one individual identification card is issued to each individual identification card holder under the Marijuana Legalization Act.

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 2062 An Act To Amend the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board Laws Regarding Registered Equipment PUBLIC 614

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CYRWAYS	OTP-AM	S-390

This bill allows for the registration of slot machines and associated equipment by certain licensed entities other than slot machine distributors.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-390)

This amendment, which is the unanimous report of the committee, clarifies that the only licensed entities that may register a slot machine or slot machine associated equipment are licensed slot machine distributors and licensed gambling services vendors.

The amendment also changes the definition of "associated equipment" to clarify that only mechanical, electromechanical or electronic components or machines that are used in or intended for use in a slot machine or table game and that affect the outcome of the game, are involved in the handling of money, tokens, credits or similar objects or things of value, or are involved in the calculation of or distribution of payoffs must be registered.