

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**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 TAXATION**

November 2020

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# 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 Taxation

This bill provides that land of a landowner that owns 50,000 or more acres of forest land in the State and allows transportation of forest products harvested on the landowner's land from a location in the State to another location in the State in violation of federal law or regulation or an international trade agreement is ineligible for classification under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law and the landowner may not receive certain tax incentives or state grants or other state funding.

This bill, which had been voted (ONTP/OTP-A) 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 2123    An Act To Create Fairness in the Revitalization of Maine's Paper Industry** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T MARTIN D		

This bill creates a refundable income tax credit for a paper manufacturer that:

1. Makes qualifying investments before January 1, 2024, of at least \$15,000,000 to acquire, modernize or improve the machinery used for the production of paper products at paper manufacturing facilities in this State;
2. Employs at least 400 employees at a paper manufacturing facility in this State, at least 75% of whom earn at least 115% of the most recent annual per capita personal income in the county in which the qualified employee is employed;
3. Is located in an area of the State with high unemployment that is not a low-income community that qualifies under the federal new markets tax credit program;
4. Does not receive a Maine new markets capital investment credit for the same investment; and
5. Is headquartered or will be headquartered in this State.

The refundable credit is equal to 4% of the qualified investment per year for 10 years, subject to certain limitations, such as a cap of \$40,000,000 on the total investment eligible for the credit for all taxpayers, for a maximum of aggregate credit claimed of \$1,600,000 per year.

This bill, which had been referred to committee but not yet heard, was carried over in committee to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 778.

### **LD 2127    An Act To Support Farmland Preservation By Allowing the Siting of Solar Energy Installations on Land Enrolled in the Farm and Open Space Tax Law Program** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S DOW D		

This bill allows the siting of solar energy installations on land classified as farmland under the farm and open space tax law as on April 1, 2020, without requiring the portion of the parcel on which the solar energy installation is

*Joint Standing Committee on Taxation*

located to be withdrawn from the farm and open space tax law program.

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 2161    An Act To Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services To Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2020-21**

**PUBLIC 675  
EMERGENCY**

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

This bill was not referred to a committee.

This bill establishes municipal cost components for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory that would normally be paid for by a municipality. The municipal cost components constitute the property tax for the unorganized territory.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 675 establishes municipal cost components for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory that would normally be paid for by a municipality. The municipal cost components constitute the property tax for the unorganized territory.

Public Law 2019, chapter 675 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 18, 2020.