

# 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  
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

November 2020

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\*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*

5. The bill would provide general support to veterans by:

- A. Raising the amount of pension income paid under an employee retirement plan that is exempt from the income tax;
- B. Extending the time for which a driver's license is valid for active duty military members; and
- C. Increasing the maximum amount of a grant of temporary assistance that may be provided to a veteran from the Veterans Temporary Assistance Fund from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

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. 788.

**LD 2162 An Act To Restore Honor to Certain Service Members**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GIDEON S JACKSONT		

This bill requires the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to establish a process for a veteran who separated from service without an honorable discharge due solely to the veteran's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression or to statements, consensual sexual conduct or consensual acts relating to sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression to have that discharge treated as an honorable discharge for purposes of determining the veteran's eligibility for rights, privileges and benefits under state law.

The bill further requires the director to explore whether other states have established processes for reviewing and potentially upgrading the discharge status, for state law purposes, of veterans who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury or who have been diagnosed with psychological trauma resulting from sexual assault or sexual harassment during military service as described in 38 United States Code, Section 1720D and who separated from service without an honorable discharge. The director is required to report, no later than January 15, 2021, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs on both the potential for implementing such a process in the State and the resources that would be required to implement the process. The committee may report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the director's report.

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. 788.