

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

October 2023

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
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**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILLS AND
SUMMARIES OF ENACTED LAWS**

This *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* provides the disposition of all LDs and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Maine Legislature. Please note that all LDs and proposed amendments may be found through the Legislature’s webpage, and each includes a summary of what the bill or amendment proposed.

The *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* is arranged alphabetically by committee. Within each committee section is a subject index of all LDs considered by that committee as well as a digest of the LDs, arranged by LD number. Also included are enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed. Brief analyst notes on certain LDs are also included: a committee digest will indicate if additional notes are provided for an LD. These notes add information staff found useful and may provide useful information to users of this *Digest*; please note that most LDs do not have a note and lack of a note should not be interpreted as having any significance. A separate section of the *Digest* provides a digest of the relatively few LDs that were not referred to a committee or reported from a committee as a committee bill; enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed are provided. Finally, an appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

The final disposition of each LD is noted in the relevant summary digest and index. 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 and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature is Thursday, June 29, 2023 and Wednesday, October 25, 2023, respectively. 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
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

LD 285 An Act to Remove the Requirement for Wild Blueberry Transportation Permits

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 18 removes the requirement that persons transporting wild blueberries have a transportation permit.

LD 289 Amend the Laws Governing the Advisory Committee on the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 212 provides legislative per diem for public members of the Advisory Committee on the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination. The law provides that members who are Legislators continue to serve until a successor is appointed. The law also removes the requirement that the advisory committee report annually to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters and environmental matters on activities of the advisory committee and issues relating to the purposes and the use of the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination. Under current law, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to report annually to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry; environment and natural resources; and health and human services matter on the status of carrying out the purposes of the fund.

LD 315 An Act to Provide Funding For Programs Benefiting Maine Farmers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 427 implements some of the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry’s January 2023 report, “Findings and Recommendations for Streamlining Permitting New Sources of Water for Irrigation in Maine.”

The law provides a one-time appropriation of \$35,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 in order for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account in Public Law 2023, chapter 17, Part G to be used for contracted services to review and overhaul the current water withdrawal permitting process.

The law establishes one limited-period Environmental Specialist II position, which ends June 7, 2025, within the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.