

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

October 2023

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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.

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submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by January 15, 2024 that outlines the activities of the stakeholder group and includes any recommendations or proposed legislation. The committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 405 An Act Regarding False Public Alarms or Reports and Aggravated False Public Alarms or Reports

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 430 establishes the new Class C crime of aggravated false public alarm or report, which occurs when the elements of the existing crime of false public alarm or report are met and the violation causes the evacuation, shutdown or lockdown of a building, school, public square or park, place of assembly or public transportation facility. It also amends the crime of false public alarm or report by adding emergency communications centers, enhanced 9-1-1 services or any other emergency services personnel to the list of organizations and persons to which providing false information may constitute that crime.

LD 428 An Act to Reclassify Certain Offenses Under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 431 makes the following changes to penalties for violating inland fisheries and wildlife laws.

1. It limits the potential penalty for committing the following Class E crimes to only a fine.
 - A. Hunting without a license.
 - B. Most instances of unlawful use or possession of implement or aids.
 - C. Hunting, trapping, molesting or harassing a bear or releasing a dog or dogs for the purpose of hunting bears or training dogs to hunt bear.
 - D. Certain violations made by the holder of a live bait retailer's license.
 - E. Certain violations made by the holder of a baitfish wholesaler's license.
 - F. Certain violations made by the holder of a smelt wholesale dealer's license.
2. It changes the following violations from Class E crimes to civil violations.
 - G. A resident or nonresident under 16 years of age hunting without a junior hunting license.

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- H. Engaging in the practice of falconry without a permit.
- I. Hunting migratory game birds with a shotgun capable of holding more than 3 shells.
- J. Allowing duck decoys to remain in the waters of Merrymeeting Bay in unpermitted times.
- K. Leaving or allowing to remain in the waters of Merrymeeting Bay an artificial cover or “stationary blind” during unpermitted hours.
- L. Failing to follow certain requirements when placing bait to entice, hunt or trap black bears.
- M. Using more than 6 dogs at any one time to hunt bear.
- N. Engaging in the training of dogs on wild birds and wild animals in an unlawful manner.
- O. Holding field trials for beagles and other rabbit hounds during unpermitted times of the year.
- P. Holding field trials for sporting dogs without a license.
- Q. Charging others for the opportunity to hunt mallard ducks, pheasants, quail, Chukar partridge and Hungarian partridge in an area or establishing a commercial shooting area for such purpose without a license.
- R. Charging the opportunity for others to fish in a private pond without a valid private fee pond license.
- S. Failure of the holder of a bait retailer’s license to present a receipted invoice, bill of lading, bill of sale or other satisfactory evidence of the lawful possession of live baitfish or smelts for retail sale upon request.

LD 429 An Act to Reclassify Certain Offenses Under the Motor Vehicle Laws and Increase the Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Effective January 1, 2024, Public Law 2023, chapter 362 updates provisions of the State’s motor vehicle laws as follows.

1. It updates the provision regarding failing or refusing to return every license, registration certificate and registration plate after notice of a license suspension by changing this violation from a Class E crime to a traffic infraction.
2. It updates the provision making it unlawful to remove a vehicle that has been towed, left at a business after being repaired, left on a residential property for more than six months or left at