

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> 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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**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> 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.

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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

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a storage facility with unpaid fees or any part or accessory of a vehicle without the written consent of the person in charge or the owner of the premises or property where the vehicle is located by changing this violation from a Class E crime to a traffic infraction.

3. It adds unregistered vehicles and vehicles having improper plates to the list of permissible reasons a vehicle may be removed when illegally parked or when used in the commission of a crime.

### **LD 439 An Act to Allow Death by Suicide to Be Considered a Death While in the Line of Duty**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 433 requires the applicable authority, when determining whether a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical services person, Department of Corrections law enforcement officer or corrections officer has died while in the line of duty, to evaluate whether an individual who died by suicide has died as a result of events or actions experienced by the individual while in the line of duty. It also gives the Commissioner of Corrections rather than the Chief of the State Police the authority to make that determination for Department of Corrections law enforcement officers.

Public Law 2023, chapter 433 incorporates several provisions that were originally contained in LD 42 but were added to LD 439 by committee amendment due to their relevance and application to other provisions in that bill. See also Criminal Justice and Public Safety, LD 42.

### **LD 516 An Act to Reduce Cancer Among Firefighters by Providing Grants for Safety Equipment**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 437 establishes the Firefighter Safety Equipment Fund to allow fire departments to purchase and install diesel vehicle exhaust systems and heavy-duty extractor washing machines, and allows fire departments to apply to the Fire Protection Services Commission for grants from this fund. It also directs the Fire Protection Services Commission to establish criteria award grants to fire departments from the fund and to adopt rules to implement this law and it provides a one-time \$250,000 appropriation to support grants from the fund.

### **LD 526 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Sustainability Program**

Public Law 2023, chapter 438 amends the definition of “emergency medical services entity” in the Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Sustainability Program laws to include all