

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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STATE OF MAINE
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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 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

ambulance services, nontransporting emergency medical services, and emergency medical services training centers licensed under the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982.

Public Law 2023, chapter 438 should be considered in conjunction with the relevant portions of the biennial budget for fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25, codified at Public Law 2023, chapter 412, part A, section A-38. LD 526, as amended by Committee Amendment “A,” included a \$31,000,000 appropriation to fund an Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Sustainability Program, which the amendment also established. The substance of that amendment was incorporated into the biennial budget, Public Law 2023, chapter 412. The final enacted version of LD 526 includes a change to a definition to clarify those provisions enacted in the biennial budget. See also Appropriations and Financial Affairs, LD 258.

LD 588 An Act to Promote Public Safety and Retain Essential First Responders by Funding the Maine Length of Service Award Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 439 provides one-time funding in the amount of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 for the Maine Length of Service Award Program, which provides length of service awards to eligible volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.

LD 692 An Act Regarding Eligibility of County Jail Inmates for a Community Confinement Monitoring Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 250 sets limitations on when a sheriff may assign an inmate in a county jail who is serving a sentence for a crime against a family or household member to participate in the community confinement monitoring program. It requires the jail administrator to determine that the inmate is not reasonably likely to pose a risk to the safety of others in the community. In making the determination, the jail administrator is required to, among other things, review and consider the results of an evidence-based risk assessment and the inmate’s criminal history record. The law also requires, when an inmate is assigned to a community confinement monitoring program, that the county jail to make a good faith attempt to notify the victim of the underlying crime at least 10 days prior to the inmates release on the program, and to do so by mail and by phone or in person.