

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

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.

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

emergency involuntary commitment. It also authorizes a Justice of the Superior Court, Judge of the District Court, Judge of Probate or justice of the peace to endorse the application electronically.

### **LD 535 An Act Regarding Consent for Gender-affirming Hormone Therapy for Certain Minors**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 413 establishes a process by which a minor who is mentally and physically competent to give consent may consent to gender-affirming hormone therapy and follow-up care if the minor is at least 16 years of age, has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria, is experiencing or expected to experience harm from not receiving gender-affirming hormone therapy, receives certain detailed information and counseling from a health care professional prior to providing informed written consent and has discussed the gender dysphoria diagnosis with the minor's parent or guardian but that parent or guardian refuses to support treatment of the gender dysphoria. Only a person qualified by training and experience to provide and monitor the provision of gender-affirming hormone therapy, who is authorized by law to prescribe medication and who is licensed by the Board of Licensure in Medicine, the Board of Osteopathic Licensure or the State Board of Nursing may provide gender-affirming hormone therapy to the minor after obtaining the minor's informed written consent.

Public Law 2023, chapter 413 does not restrict the authority of a parent or guardian to consent to gender-affirming hormone therapy for a minor in accordance with established standards of care.

### **LD 538 An Act Regarding the Appointment of Expert Witnesses in Certain Family Court Actions**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 90 provides that, if a court appoints an expert other than a guardian ad litem to provide recommendations regarding the award of parental rights and responsibilities or conditions of parent-child contact in cases involving allegations of domestic abuse between the parents, that expert must be a licensed clinical social worker, psychologist or psychiatrist who has training and expertise in how domestic abuse tactics affect adult and child safety, the effects of domestic abuse on children, best practices for recognizing and assessing the effects of domestic abuse on the parent-child relationship and methods for reducing post-separation abuse and promoting child safety and security.