

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 595 An Act to Establish the Companion Animal Sterilization Program in the Maine Revised Statutes

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 484 establishes the Companion Animal Sterilization Program, previously in Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry rules, in statute. The law allows the department to be the administrator of the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund in the event that the department is unable to contract with a suitable animal welfare organization.

LD 782 An Act to Support Statewide Economic Opportunities Through Strategic Investments of Property and Funds, Including Emergency Relief Funds

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 120 allows the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, subject to the approval of the Governor, to apply for and accept on behalf of the State emergency relief funds. The law specifies that funds and other personal or real property accepted by the commissioner on behalf of the State be for the purpose of economic opportunity, business growth and other strategic investments. The law requires the commissioner to adopt rules to implement and administer grant or other fund disbursement programs of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and authorizes the commissioner to adjudicate appeals of grant or other disbursement decisions made under the programs.

LD 797 Resolve, to Authorize the Conveyance of Real Property to the Capitol Area Recreation Association

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 109 directs the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey by quitclaim deed with servitudes to the Capitol Area Recreation Association for \$1 on or before July 1, 2024 all of the State's interest in a parcel of land in Augusta, Maine comprising playing fields and other community recreation areas along Piggery Road, which is currently the subject of a lease dated January 1, 1992 between the Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Capitol Area Recreation Association.

LD 834 An Act to Ensure Transparency in the Labeling of Meat as Grass-fed

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 74 prohibits a person from selling, offering for sale or distributing within the State or selling, offering for sale or serving in any retail food establishment or eating establishment any meat or meat product labeled or advertised as "grass-fed" or by similar