

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
TRANSPORTATION**

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 TRANSPORTATION

LD 556 An Act to Limit the Driver's License Reinstatement Fee in Certain Circumstances

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 363 requires the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles to collect only a single reinstatement fee of \$50, instead of two or more reinstatement fees in certain circumstances.

LD 575 An Act Regarding a Seat Belt Exemption for Persons with a Medical Condition

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 364 allows a physician to designate the duration of the applicant's medical condition for the purpose of allowing an exemption from the seat belt requirements for adult drivers and passengers for a period not to exceed six years, beginning January 1, 2024.

LD 598 An Act to Require a Vehicle Operator to Notify an Owner or Law Enforcement Officer of an Accident Involving a Dog, a Cat or Livestock

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 302 clarifies under the law governing accidents involving property damage that property includes dogs, cats and livestock. It adds a requirement that when the property damaged is a dog, a cat or livestock, the property owner cannot be located and a report is not required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29 A, section 2251, the operator must take reasonable steps to immediately report the incident to a law enforcement officer or animal control officer.

LD 607 Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Examine Improving Highway Connections from Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 63 directs the Department of Transportation to convene a stakeholder group to identify and develop strategies to address highway mobility and transportation needs in northern Maine. The stakeholder group consists of 11 members appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation. The stakeholder group is directed to determine to what extent the Aroostook County Transportation Study recommendations have been or will be implemented; review the previous studies analyzing the feasibility of connecting Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley and Aroostook County with a new 90-mile divided highway or with improvements to existing highways; review the conceptual benefits, costs, permitting process and feasible funding sources of a highway connecting Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley and unorganized territory of Central Aroostook; review current and future highway improvement plans that include Aroostook County;

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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recommend highway improvements that will substantially improve safety, mobility and economic opportunity in northern Maine; and identify the economic and social benefits and costs of improved integration between highway systems in Canada and Maine. By December 31, 2023, the department must submit a report that includes the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The committee is allowed to report out legislation based on the recommendations of the stakeholder group to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 652 An Act to Allow the Reinstatement of Certain Commercial Driver's Licenses

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 108 allows for the reinstatement, in accordance with 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 383.51(a)(6) (2023), of a commercial license of any driver who has been disqualified for life from operating a commercial motor vehicle for offenses described in paragraphs (b)(1) to (b)(8) of Table 1 to 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 383.51 (2023).

LD 686 An Act to Enhance Safety for Animal-drawn Vehicles on Highways

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 301 allows for a slow-moving vehicle emblem to be used instead of the requirement for an animal-drawn vehicle to be equipped with reflective tape.

LD 687 An Act to Increase the Allowable Width of a Snowplow

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 72 increases from 108 inches to 126 inches the maximum allowable width of a vehicle with a snowplow and equipment mounted on the vehicle traveling from one work location to another work location during a storm event or from the point of purchase to a storage location.

LD 754 Resolve, Directing the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to Examine Restoring Passenger Rail from Boston to Montreal

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 101 directs the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to examine restoring passenger rail from Boston, Massachusetts to Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The commissions are directed to