

# 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  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



**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

the landlord to require permission, as a condition of tenancy, to enter the rental unit in an emergency in order to determine whether the animal is in need of care and establishes a process through which the landlord may remove an animal in the event the animal has been abandoned or the tenant is unable to care for the animal due to death or disability.

### **LD 691 An Act to Reduce Barriers to Housing by Limiting Tenant Application Fees**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 346 prohibits a landlord, except in certain circumstances, from requiring an applicant to pay a fee in order to submit an application to enter into an agreement to rent a residential dwelling unit or to review or approve an application to enter into an agreement to rent a residential dwelling unit. The law allows the landlord to require an applicant to pay a fee for the actual cost of a background check, credit check or other screening process only once in a 12-month period. The law also requires the landlord to provide the applicant with a complete copy of the information from the background check, credit check or other screening process used to evaluate the applicant's eligibility for tenancy.

### **LD 701 An Act to Increase the Notice Period for Rent Increases of 10 Percent or More**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 388 requires, with the exception of residential real estate restricted under or participating in certain housing assistance programs, that a landlord provide at least 75 days' written notice to a tenant for a rent increase that is 10% or greater over a 12-month period.

### **LD 707 An Act to Update the Maine Human Rights Act with Respect to Gender Identity**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 41 updates the definition of "sexual orientation" in the Maine Human Rights Act by removing the reference to "gender identity or expression." The term "gender identity" was given a separate definition by Public Law 2019, chapter 464.

### **LD 720 An Act to Expand Eligibility for Supervised Community Confinement for Prisoners with a Prognosis Likely to Result in an Incapacitating Medical Condition**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 399 expands the ability of the Department of Corrections to transfer a prisoner from a correctional facility to the supervised community confinement program, when the prisoner does not otherwise meet the eligibility criteria of the supervised community confinement