

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

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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.

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LD 419 Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Study Polling Places at Schools in Order to Protect Security and Accessibility

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 73 directs the Department of the Secretary of State to convene a working group to study the use of school buildings as polling places, to consider options to protect the security of school students and staff and election staff and voters and to consider polling place accessibility. The working group is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs by January 1, 2024. The committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 555 An Act to Increase the Number of Mature Plants Allowed for the Home Cultivation of Cannabis

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 220 increases the number of mature cannabis plants a person is allowed to possess, cultivate or transport at any one time for personal use from three to six.

LD 569 An Act to Allow the Adjutant General to Sell the Houlton Armory

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 33 permits the Adjutant General to sell the Houlton Armory, located at 86 Pleasant Street, Houlton, by means of a quitclaim deed provided the purchaser agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State from all claims, including any environmental clean-up costs that may arise in connection with the land or the buildings constituting the armory. This sale does not require approval of the Legislature under Title 38-B, section 264, subsection B.

LD 726 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Political Action Committees Relating to Union, Business and Nonprofit Organizations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 244 repeals the changes made in Public Law 2021, chapter 274 and Public Law 2021, chapter 607. It makes the following changes to the campaign finance laws.

1. It removes the definitions of "business entity," "leadership political action committee" and "separate segregated fund committee."
2. It removes the prohibition on business entities making contributions to candidates.

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3. It provides that a political committee, political action committee, ballot question committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than the amount that an individual may contribute to that candidate.
4. It updates the limits on contributions to candidates based on the current limits, which are adjusted every two years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25.
5. It provides that contributions made by a for-profit or nonprofit corporation, including a parent, subsidiary, branch, division, department or local unit of a corporation, and contributions made by a political committee or political action committee whose contribution or expenditure activities are financed, maintained or controlled by a corporation are considered to be made by that corporation, political committee or political action committee. It clarifies when two or more entities are treated as a single entity and provides that a sole proprietorship and its owner are treated as a single entity.
6. It removes the limits on contributions to leadership political action committees and limits on contributions to separate segregated fund committees.

It also requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop legislation necessary to regulate contributions made by business entities to candidates and political action committees and contributions accepted by leadership political action committees. The commission is directed to submit a report by February 1, 2024 to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, which may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Public Law 2023, chapter 244 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 22, 2023.

LD 731 An Act Regarding the Licensing of Persons to Conduct Advance Deposit Wagering

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 440 repeals the provision of law that directs the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to award, through a competitive bidding process, one bidder the privilege to be licensed to conduct advance deposit wagering and instead allows commercial tracks, off-track betting facilities and account wagering providers, which are defined as business entities that offer advance deposit wagering on a horse race that is not a commercial track or an off-track betting facility licensed in this State, to obtain a license to conduct advance deposit wagering. It also provides the following.

1. Advance deposit wagering licensees are required to remit 5% of in-state gross wagering income and 5% of out-of-state gross wagering income to the board for distribution.