

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

June 2024

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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 Second Regular Session 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 Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature is Friday, August 9, 2024. 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 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LD 295 An Act to Incentivize Accurate Recyclability Labeling on Packaging Material

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 589 amends the law establishing a stewardship program for packaging material to provide that the producer payment schedule adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection under that law must delineate criteria to be used to adjust producer payments in a manner that incentivizes labeling of packaging material to reduce consumer confusion including by incentivizing accuracy in recyclability claims displayed on packaging material.

Public Law 2023, chapter 589 also provides that the annual report regarding the packaging material stewardship program to be submitted by the department by February 15, 2028 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters must include information regarding the criteria and standards adopted by other jurisdictions to regulate recyclability claims displayed on packaging material and an evaluation of options for further incentivizing or ensuring accuracy in recyclability claims displayed on packaging material through amendments to the producer payment schedule, through amendments to the criteria and standards for recyclability or through other amendments to the law governing the stewardship program for packaging material or the rules adopted pursuant to that law.

LD 865 An Act to Clarify the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Environmental Protection

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 512 amends laws relating to the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Board of Environmental Protection as follows.

1. It amends the criteria by which the board assumes jurisdiction over a license or permit application, stipulating the specific categories of license and permit applications over which the board must assume jurisdiction. The law also includes technical revisions to other statutes relating to these jurisdictional changes.
2. It amends provisions regarding the board's acceptance and consideration of additional or supplemental evidence submitted by an appellant, respondent or interested party during the appeal of a final license or permit decision of the commissioner.
3. It provides that, if the board modifies or reverses a final license or permit decision of the commissioner, the licensee or permittee is required to implement any changes to the project that is the subject of the license or permit necessary to comply with the decision of the board, which may include, but are not limited to, deconstruction and site restoration, and the department may initiate enforcement actions and impose penalties if the licensee or permittee fails to satisfactorily implement those changes.