

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 JUDICIARY

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 JUDICIARY

LD 868 An Act to Extend the Protections of the Maine Civil Rights Act to Actions That Cause Emotional Distress or Fear of Violence

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 287 amends the Maine Civil Rights Act to prohibit a person from intentionally interfering or attempting to intentionally interfere with another person's exercise or enjoyment of that person's civil rights by engaging in any conduct that would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional distress or to fear death or bodily injury to themselves or to a close relation when that conduct is motivated by reason of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

LD 934 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Damages Awarded for Wrongful Death

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 390 increases the limit on damages for the loss of comfort, society and companionship and emotional distress in a case of wrongful death from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 and provides for that amount to be adjusted based on inflation calculated in relation to the consumer price index. It also increases the limit on punitive damages from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The law increases from two years to three years the time after the decedent's death within which a wrongful death action may be commenced.

LD 942 Resolve, to Establish a Plan for Adding a 3rd Option for Gender on State Forms

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 76 directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to coordinate with all executive branch and quasi-independent entities to compile a list of all printed and electronic forms, applications and other documents used by these entities that require a person to designate that person's gender and estimate the time and cost required to include within those forms, applications and other documents an option to designate "X" for gender. It also directs the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to compile the same information for the judicial branch and the legislative branch, respectively, and to submit this information to the department. The department shall report this information to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary by January 1, 2024 along with the department's recommendations, if any, for expediting the process by which all of these printed and electronic forms, applications and other documents that require a gender designation are revised to include an option to designate "X" for gender. The committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.