

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 HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

October 2023

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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 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LD 945 An Act to Allow Maine Families to Increase Their Savings by Changing the Asset Limits for Eligibility for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023 chapter 366 does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt an asset limit of \$10,000 per family under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, program.
2. It authorizes the department to exempt from the asset limit one vehicle for each licensed driver in the family.
3. It changes the manner in which lump sum payments are counted for the purpose of eligibility for TANF assistance, such that the department must treat any nonrecurring lump sum income received by a family as an asset, and not as income, in the month the lump sum payment is received. To the extent that any nonrecurring lump sum income remains after the month it was received, the department must continue to consider the income as an asset.

LD 956 An Act Concerning Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data Collection in Health Care Facilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023 chapter 129 requires, beginning October 1, 2026, a health care facility, other than a pharmacy, to ensure that data related to sexual orientation and gender identity is collected from an individual as part of the health care information collected upon intake at a health care facility and at any other time demographic information is collected, unless the individual declines to answer questions regarding the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. It provides that data collected pursuant to this section is health care information that is subject to the confidentiality requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1711-C.

LD 976 Resolve, to Establish the Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 97 establishes the Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients, which is directed to study accessibility to appropriate communication methods for deaf and hard-of-hearing patients in health care settings and how that accessibility may be improved. The task force is required to submit a report and suggested legislation by December 6, 2023 to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, which is authorized to report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.