

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
TRANSPORTATION**

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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 1030 Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Report on the School Bus Driver Shortage

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 40 directs that the Secretary of State must, by January 3, 2024, submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation with any findings related to the school bus driver shortage, the efforts the Secretary of State has made to alleviate the shortage and any recommendations, including suggested legislation, to alleviate the shortage. The committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1072 An Act Regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 257 does the following.

1. It allows the Secretary of State or the secretary's designee to waive a penalty or fee if it is determined that the circumstances that caused the penalty or fee justify the waiver.
2. It reallocates the provisions of law governing the issuance of temporary license plates from the laws governing motor vehicle registration to the laws governing motor vehicle dealers, who issue the plates. It also changes cross-references as needed and makes a change for consistency with current law.
3. It repeals the honorary consul license plate as the Federal Government has advised states not to issue them.
4. It specifies that the issuance of a temporary registration permit for the transportation of a tiny home is for occasional transportation only.
5. It requires a lienholder who participates in the electronic lien titling program to register with the Secretary of State.
6. It requires the Secretary of State to permanently revoke, without preliminary hearing, the commercial driver's license of a person who has been convicted of a felony involving an act or practice of severe forms of human trafficking in which a commercial motor vehicle was used. This requirement is mandated by federal law.
7. It allows the Secretary of State to provide social security numbers within the Department of the Secretary of State to implement the federal National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the

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federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 or other federal election law within the central voter registration system.

8. It extends the fingerprinting requirement for driver education instructors from every 5 years to every 6 years, to coincide with their instructor license renewals, which are every 2 years.
9. It clarifies that the Secretary of State may provide databases of records pertaining to applications, registrations and certifications of vehicles and to driver's licenses to individuals, businesses and other entities only as allowed by law.
10. It amends the laws governing the issuance of special veteran's registration plates for motor vehicles and motorcycles by adding an eligibility for National Guard members who have served a minimum of 20 years and have been honorably discharged to qualify for the plates.
11. It changes the categories of instructor licensure for driver education schools from Class A and Class B to Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 and specifies that a Class 3 instructor license authorizes the holder to teach only the classroom phase of driver education as an employee or affiliate of a licensed driver education school.
12. It provides that when a person has operated a motor vehicle in such a manner as to cause the death of a person or has been convicted of criminal homicide or attempted criminal homicide, the Secretary of State may revoke that person's driver's license for at least 5 years without further hearing upon receipt of an attested copy of the court records as long as the attested copy is received within one year of the date of conviction.
13. It updates provisions in the bill to reflect the changes made in Public Law 2023, chapter 85 regarding the number of motor vehicles and motorcycles for which a veteran may request special veterans' registration.
14. It makes technical changes to those sections of the bill amending the laws governing commercial driver's licenses and the confidentiality of driver's license information.

LD 1120 Resolve, to Install a Suicide Barrier on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 90 directs the Department of Transportation to construct and maintain pedestrian barrier fences on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge for the purpose of suicide prevention and requires the department to report on its progress every 6 months until the installation of the fences is complete.

Resolve 2023, chapter 90 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 30, 2023.