

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
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 VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

LD 1132 An Act Regarding the Provision of Liquor at Taste-testing Events Held at an Off-premises Retail Licensee's Premises

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 349 allows for spirits served at a taste-testing event held at an agency liquor store to be provided by the agency liquor store, purchased at the retail price by a licensed sales representative participating in the taste-testing event from the existing stock of the agency liquor store or provided by a licensed sales representative or a spirits supplier participating in the taste-testing event if the spirits were purchased in the State at the retail price. A record of the transaction must be maintained and made available to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations.

It also allows for wine and malt liquor served at a taste-testing event held on the premises of an off-premises retail licensee to be purchased by the retail licensee from a wholesale licensee, to be purchased at the retail price by a licensed sales representative participating in the taste-testing event from existing stock available for purchase at the retail licensee's premises or to be provided by a licensed sales representative or licensed manufacturer participating in the taste-testing event if the malt liquor or wine was purchased in the State at the retail price. A record of the transaction must be maintained and made available to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations.

It also provides that if the liquor, wine or malt liquor provided for the taste-testing event comes from a source other than the agency liquor store or the retail licensee, the products must be removed from the premises at the conclusion of the taste-testing event.

LD 1344 An Act to Improve the State's Election Laws by Amending the Laws Relating to Automatic Voter Registration

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Effective February 1, 2024, Public Law 2023, chapter 291 makes the following changes to the laws relating to automatic voter registration.

1. It provides that the deadline for receipt of voter registration applications transmitted by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles or by a source agency other than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles under the automatic voter registration law is midnight on the 7th day before election day.
2. It makes additional changes regarding when registration applications must be transmitted to the appropriate registrar's office and when registration applications must be entered into the central voter registration system and placed on the incoming voting list to align with the deadline for receipt of voter registration applications transmitted by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles or by a source agency other than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles under the automatic voter registration law.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

3. It changes the deadline for online registration applications to be transmitted by the Department of the Secretary of State to the appropriate registrar's office from daily to the next business day following receipt and provides the same deadline for those voter registration applications transmitted by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles or by a source agency other than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles under the automatic voter registration law.
4. It excludes registration applications transmitted by the deadline for registration by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles or by a source agency other than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles under the automatic voter registration law from the 20-day closed period for outside registrations.

LD 1357 An Act to Impose an Expanded Prohibition on Lobbying for Former Executive Branch Employees

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 337 prohibits, beginning with the convening of the 132nd Legislature, former executive branch employees and officers, including former officers or employees in the classified service, former employees in the unclassified service and persons who held a position for which the salary is subject to adjustment by the Governor or that is a major policy-influencing position, from engaging in compensated lobbying until one year after the termination of the executive branch employment.

It also provides that a person may file a complaint with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices specifying an alleged violation of the prohibition on former executive branch employee lobbying. The commission is required to notify the person against whom the complaint has been filed and may undertake the investigation of the alleged violation. The commission may direct commission staff to undertake an investigation of an alleged violation on its own motion. A person who intentionally violates the prohibition on former executive branch employee lobbying is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000, payable to the State and recoverable in a civil action.

LD 1371 An Act to Amend Limits on the Direct Shipment of Wine

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 274 changes the minimum allowable shipment limit for a container of wine to not less than 250 milliliters. It also clarifies that a direct shipper may ship no more than 9,000 milliliters per shipment no more than 12 times to any one recipient address in a calendar year.