

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION**

October 2023

**STAFF:**

JULIA MACDONALD, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. BEN CHIPMAN, CHAIR  
SEN. TIM NANGLE  
SEN. BRADLEE T. FARRIN

REP. LYNNE A. WILLIAMS, CHAIR  
REP. KEVIN J.M. O'CONNELL  
REP. BRUCE A. WHITE  
REP. LYDIA V. CRAFTS  
REP. DANIEL J. ANKELES  
REP. WAYNE R. PARRY  
REP. ROGER CLARENCE ALBERT  
REP. JAMES LEE WHITE  
REP. AUSTIN L. THERIAULT  
REP. RICHARD G. MASON

**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



**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 TRANSPORTATION

### **LD 1200 Resolve, to Convene a Driver Education Working Group to Evaluate Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income Families**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 94 directs the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles to convene a working group to study potential solutions regarding the cost of and access to driver education for underserved populations and low-income families. The working group is required to submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

### **LD 1296 An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Allow Firefighters to Have Increased Lighting on Their Personal Vehicles**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 131 changes the length of the red-light bar allowed on vehicles of active members of municipal or volunteer fire departments to 12 inches up to the width between the tops of the doors.

### **LD 1341 An Act to Modernize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Mobile Services**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 418 directs the Secretary of State to modernize the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles' mobile services including traveling units, computer tablets, computers, printers, vehicle expenses and other information technology by establishing and operating a program to provide mobile services for certain bureau services. It provides that the program must be funded with up to \$1,000,000 in available prior year balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, Highway Fund account in accordance with Public Law 2023, chapter 50, Part B. It requires the funds to be distributed by financial order upon recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor.

### **LD 1390 An Act to Provide Self-service Motor Vehicle Services**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 419 directs the Secretary of State to establish and operate eight self-service kiosks to provide vehicle registration renewals and renewals or replacements of driver's licenses or nondriver identification cards. It also directs the Secretary of State to investigate the various types of self-service kiosks that provide services offered by the Department

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles that are available to the State, including those self-service kiosks that are offered at no cost to the State and to provide a report that includes the findings of the investigation and any recommendations, including any proposed statutory changes, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by January 3, 2024. It authorizes the committee to report out a bill related to self-service kiosks that provide services offered by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. It provides that to fund the leasing of eight self-service kiosks, including for technology costs to provide certain motor vehicle services, the Secretary of State may use up to \$1,000,000 in available prior year balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, Highway Fund account as authorized for this purpose in Public Law 2023, chapter 50, Part B. The funds may be allotted by financial order upon recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor.

### **LD 1463 An Act to Amend the Definition of "Farming" Under the Motor Vehicle Laws to Include Equines Not Raised for Racing**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 403 changes the definition of "farming" in the motor vehicle statutes to include raising equines not raised for commercial racing. It requires the Secretary of State to provide a report that describes the financial impact to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles from including "equines not raised for racing at a commercial track" in the definition of "farming" in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 23 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by November 6, 2024. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may submit legislation relating to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

### **LD 1559 An Act to Advance the State's Public Transit Systems by Reinvigorating the Public Transit Advisory Council**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 319 does the following.

1. It specifies that the Department of Transportation's duty to facilitate and support the public transportation systems in the State to achieve accessibility, affordability and convenience is for the average person's mobility needs.
2. It amends the membership of the Public Transit Advisory Council.
3. It directs that the council shall annually elect a chair and vice chair from among its members, each of whom serve for a term of one year.