

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR 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

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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 Second Regular Session 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 Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature is Friday, August 9, 2024. 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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subsection 1. It also authorizes the transfer of funds from the Governor-elect's Expense Account to a committee established for the purpose of financing costs related to the transition to office of a Governor-elect.

### **LD 1517 An Act to Establish the Social Equity Program**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 683 establishes a social equity program within the Department of Economic and Community Development to increase workforce development programs and provide support to individuals who are members of impacted communities and businesses that are owned by members of impacted communities. It defines "impacted communities" to mean racial, ethnic or tribal populations that have experienced incarceration at rates disproportionate to the racial, ethnic or tribal populations' rate of criminality starting in or about the year 1971 and as a result the racial, ethnic or tribal populations have experienced direct or indirect discrimination in access to housing, employment and education. It provides that the costs to implement the program may not exceed \$300,000 per biennium.

As part of the social equity program, the following time-limited programs are adopted and may be funded from the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund.

1. An apprenticeship navigator position is established within the Department of Labor to increase access to workforce development opportunities for impacted communities, including, but not limited to, apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.
2. An array of business support services targeted to impacted communities are provided by the Department of Economic and Community Development.
3. A cannabis business advocate position is established within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to assist participants under the Cannabis Legalization Act and the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, respectively.

By December 15, 2026, each department must submit a report regarding the time-limited program to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters, economic and community development matters and cannabis matters.

Public Law 2023, chapter 683 also creates the Social Equity Program Advisory Committee of nine individuals who are members of impacted communities. The committee must be convened by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee.