

# 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 SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

October 2023

**STAFF:**

RACHEL OLSON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
LYNNE CASWELL, 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. CRAIG V. HICKMAN, CHAIR  
SEN. STACY F. BRENNER  
SEN. JEFFREY L. TIMBERLAKE

REP. LAURA D. SUPICA, CHAIR  
REP. MORGAN J. RIELLY  
REP. BENJAMIN T. COLLINGS  
REP. MARC G. MALON, II  
REP. KAREN L. MONTELL  
REP. JOHN ANDREWS  
REP. DAVID W. BOYER, JR.  
REP. BENJAMIN C. HYMES  
REP. SHELLEY RUDNICKI  
REP. WALTER N. RISEMAN

**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 VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

### **LD 1378 An Act Regarding Liquor Service by Catering Services for Special Events at Licensed Wineries, Small Wineries, Breweries, Small Breweries, Distilleries and Small Distilleries**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 269 allows a qualified catering service to provide liquor at functions or events held at wineries, small wineries, breweries, small breweries, distilleries or small distilleries as long as the catering service files an application at least 24 hours in advance of the function or event on a form provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. A winery, small winery, brewery, small brewery, distillery or small distillery may host on the premises up to four times in a seven-day period a function or event where a qualified catering service provides the service of liquor.

Public Law 2023, chapter 269 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 23, 2023.

### **LD 1477 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Align the Proceedings for Circulating Written Petitions for People's Vetoes and Direct Initiatives with Federal Law**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Constitutional Resolution 2023, chapter 3 proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to remove the requirement that a circulator of a citizen's initiative or people's veto petition be a resident of this State and a registered voter in this State, which have been found to be unconstitutional by a federal court.

Constitutional Resolution 2023, chapter 3 as finally passed by the Legislature is contingent upon the approval of the voters at a statewide election to be held November 7, 2023.

### **LD 1523 An Act to Establish a Qualifying Condition Review Board to Provide Benefits to Certain Service Members**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 202 establishes the Qualifying Condition Review Board to accept and review applications from veterans with a discharge characterization of less than an honorable discharge who believe the discharge characterization was based on the veteran's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression; conduct associated with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or acquired brain injury; or conduct or circumstances relating to being a victim of military sexual assault. The board has three members, appointed by the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, all of whom must have relevant clinical experience working with veterans. A veteran whose

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

application is approved by the Qualifying Condition Review Board and the Director is eligible for all the rights, privileges and benefits granted to veterans under Maine law.

### **LD 1568 An Act to Protect Access to Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 320 provides that interfering with a voter attempting to cast a vote, which is a Class E crime, includes knowingly blocking or attempting to block a voter's access to a secured drop box. It also provides that, during the absentee voting period, to the extent possible, a municipality must ensure that a path to each secured drop box is clear of all barriers.

### **LD 1597 Resolve, to Establish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 95 establishes the 10-member Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission to study the impacts of exposure to harmful chemicals on veterans who served at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada. The commission shall submit a report, no later than December 6, 2023, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs with its findings, recommendations and any suggested legislation.

### **LD 1627 An Act to Improve Disclosure of Lobbyist Activities**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 279 reduces the number of days lobbyists, lobbyist associates and employers have to register as lobbyists after lobbying more than eight hours in a calendar month on behalf of an employer from 15 business days to 10 calendar days.

### **LD 1630 An Act Regarding Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure and Enforcement of Income Source Reporting Requirements**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 324 makes the following changes to the administration of campaign finance and lobbyist disclosure laws by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices and the enforcement of income reporting requirements.

1. It provides for a preliminary penalty for when a Legislator or a legislative candidate does not file a statement of sources of income on time, which may be waived by the commission, of \$100 for a legislative candidate or \$250 for a Legislator.