

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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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>

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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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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.

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4. It requires the council to meet 3 times a year and allows the council to create subcommittees.
5. It changes the council's report provided each year to include an assessment of the infrastructure provided in each geographic region. It adds that the report must include recommendations for supporting infrastructure that should be provided and an estimate of the cost of providing that infrastructure and a recommendation for including additional funding as needed.

LD 1674 An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 237 does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Transportation to adopt rules to ensure that all persons, including bicyclists, pedestrians, persons of all ages and abilities, transit users and motor vehicle users are safe on the State's public ways and that all persons have safe and efficient access to the transportation system. It directs the department, in adopting those rules, to use the Complete Streets Policy completed in 2014 and revised in June 2019 and all policy documents and standard practices related to the following community-based initiatives: the Municipal Partnership Initiative, the Village Partnership Initiative, the Business Partnership Initiative and the Planning Partnership Initiative.
2. It adds safety metrics and crash data to the considerations under the department's priorities, service levels, asset management goals and reporting.
3. It provides that, at the request of a municipality, the department must perform a road safety evaluation.
4. It requires, by January 3, 2024, that the department report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation on the department's evaluation of how speed limits are set; provide recommendations for changes to state, county and municipal street design standards, state laws and municipal ordinances to achieve the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2035; and report any findings related to speed limits or traffic fatalities and recommendations, including suggested legislation. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.