

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
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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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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.