

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
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**

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
131ST 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

14. It requires a Maine Clean Election Act candidate to obtain and submit a record of labor performed by any member of campaign staff each day the member of the campaign staff is compensated more than \$3,000.

A provision authorizing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to deposit penalties for late filing by political action committees and ballot question committees in an existing special revenue account to pay for improvements to the commission's electronic filing systems, which was proposed in the original version of LD 1630, was not included in Public Law 2023, chapter 324, but was instead incorporated into the biennial budget, enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 412, part SSS. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, LD 258.

LD 1653 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow Persons Under Guardianship for Mental Illness to Be Electors

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Constitutional Resolution 2023, chapter 4 proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow persons under guardianship to be electors for Governor, Senators and Representatives by removing the provision prohibiting such action, which has been found by the United States District Court for the District of Maine to violate the United States Constitution and federal law.

Constitutional Resolution 2023, chapter 4 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 1690 An Act Regarding Ongoing Absentee Voting and Tracking of Absentee Ballots

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Effective December 31, 2025, Public Law 2023, chapter 404 makes the following changes to the provisions of law regarding ongoing absentee voter status.

1. It removes the requirement that an ongoing absentee voter be a voter who will be at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self identifies as having a disability.
2. It removes the requirement that the procedures for application for status as an ongoing absentee voter must include a process for notifying the voter that if the voter moves out of the municipality, that voter's status as an ongoing absentee voter in that municipality terminates.
3. It removes the requirement that the clerk or Secretary of State shall terminate a voter's ongoing absentee voter status upon the failure of the voter to vote by absentee ballot for a general election.