

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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10. It allows advertisements and marketing of a cannabis business, cannabis and cannabis products to include the display of a sign on the licensed premises and on the exterior of a motor vehicle of a cannabis business.

LD 1980 An Act to Improve Election Laws and Notarial Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 304 makes the following changes, including other necessary technical changes, to the laws governing elections and notarial acts.

1. Part A does the following.
 - A. It provides that the elections division of the Secretary of State's office is responsible for processing voter registration applications for voters enrolled in the Address Confidentiality Program and for creating the voter records in the central voter registration system. It also provides that the elections division is responsible for mailing the absentee ballots for statewide elections to the voters in the Address Confidentiality Program, while the municipal clerk must mail the absentee ballots for local elections to these voters.
 - B. It changes the effective date and implementation date of the laws governing online voter registration to no later than February 1, 2024.
 - C. It removes the requirement for municipal clerks to attend the biennial party caucuses in the even-numbered years.
 - D. It allows political parties to hold virtual biennial municipal caucuses rather than in-person caucuses.
 - E. It provides that primary candidates may file their candidate consent either with their primary petitions or prior to filing their primary petitions with the Secretary of State.
 - F. It provides that nonparty candidates may file their candidate consent either with their nomination petitions or prior to filing their nomination petitions with the Secretary of State.
 - G. It allows for the candidate consent and certificate of nomination for a replacement candidate to be submitted to the Secretary of State via scanned image or facsimile.
 - H. It allows for candidates to submit a withdrawal notice to the Secretary of State via scanned image or facsimile.
 - I. It prohibits a person from taking a photograph of another person in the voting place if the person taking the photograph is closer than 15 feet from the person being photographed.

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- J. It clarifies how a voter must mark a ballot to cast a write-in vote.
- K. It changes the deadline for a write-in candidate to file that candidate's written declaration of write-in candidacy to either with the candidate's nomination or petition or at any earlier time during which signatures may be collected.
- L. It removes batch elimination from the ranked-choice voting process and requires the Secretary of State to post the complete cast vote record on its publicly accessible website as soon as the certified results are reported.
- M. It requires the Secretary of State to use sworn law enforcement officers for the secure retrieval of ballots prior to a recount. It clarifies that ballot retrieval may be conducted in stages for a recount that involves multiple counties.
- N. It changes the effective date and implementation date of the laws governing ongoing absentee ballots to no later than February 1, 2024.
- O. It removes the requirement that the list of absentee voters created for each election must contain a notation of whether the application was accepted or rejected.
- P. It changes the reference from denial of an absentee ballot application to rejection of an application and provides that the voter may be notified of the rejection in writing or by e-mail.
- Q. It provides that a municipal clerk may begin processing absentee ballots starting at 7 a.m. on any day that the clerk processes ballots prior to election day.
- R. It requires the Secretary of State to post the list of municipalities that have opted to process absentee ballots prior to election day on the Secretary of State's publicly accessible website at least one week prior to the date on which early processing of absentee ballots may begin.
- S. It allows the Secretary of State to adopt major substantive rules related to the inspection of absentee ballot applications and envelopes before they are processed.
- T. It changes the deadline by which a member of the public must submit that member's request to a municipal clerk to inspect absentee ballots and envelopes before they are processed to 4 p.m. on the day prior to each day the clerk will process absentee ballots.
- U. It changes the deadline by which uniformed service voters or overseas voters may register to vote to prior to noon on the day before election day.
- V. It changes the deadline by which uniformed service voters or overseas voters may request an absentee ballot to prior to noon on the day before election day.
- W. It removes the requirement that a circulator for a citizen's initiative or people's veto petition be a Maine resident and a registered Maine voter.

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2. Part B does the following.
 - A. It provides that if a notarial act regarding a tangible record is performed by a notarial officer, an official stamp may be affixed to or embossed on the certificate and that if a notarial act regarding an electronic record is performed by a notary public and the certificate contains certain information, an official stamp must be attached to or logically associated with the certificate.
 - B. It provides for a fee of \$25 for filing a new or renewal application for a marriage officiant license.
 - C. It provides for a fee of \$250 for filing a new or renewal application for approval to be a provider of communication technology used to perform remote or electronic notarization.
3. Part C removes the provision of law requiring plantations to submit the names of the elected assessors and clerks to the Secretary of State.

Public Law 2023, chapter 304 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 26, 2023.

LD 1984 An Act to Allow Golf Courses to Obtain a License to Conduct Off-premises Catering

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 285 allows golf courses licensed to provide liquor to obtain a license to conduct off-premises catering with the same type of liquor that the golf course is licensed to provide.

Public Law 2023, chapter 285 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 23, 2023.

LD 1987 An Act to Allow the Adjutant General to Sell the Calais Armory

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 296 authorizes the Adjutant General to sell the Calais Armory, located at 53 Calais Avenue in Calais, Maine, by means of a quitclaim deed provided the purchaser agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State from all claims, including any environmental clean-up costs that may arise in connection with the land or the buildings constituting the armory.