

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR 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

131ST LEGISLATURE
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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 Second Regular Session 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 Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature is Friday, August 9, 2024. 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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LD 1578 An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 628 adopts the Interstate Compact: Agreement Among the States to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote, referred to as the National Popular Vote for President Act. Under the compact, all of a participating state's electoral votes are awarded to the presidential slate that receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Because the compact takes effect only when the number of electoral votes held by the participating states equals a majority of the overall total number of electoral votes, currently at least 270 of the 538 electoral votes, the presidential slate that receives the most popular votes is declared the winning slate.

Public Law 2023, chapter 628 also adjusts the use of ranked-choice voting to determine the electors in this State when the National Popular Vote for President Act governs the appointment of electors. If no presidential slate receives a majority of the initial votes cast for president in the State, the count is determined by ranked-choice voting under the supervision of the Secretary of State. Only the vote counts of the two slates in the final round of ranked-choice voting are forwarded by the Governor to the Archivist of the United States for determination of the national popular vote count. To clarify the process under ranked-choice voting regarding candidates, the law replaces the word "defeated" with the term "removed from consideration."

The National Popular Vote for President Act is only in effect when the number of electoral votes held by the participating states equals a majority of the overall total number of electoral votes, so that if that number falls below a majority, due to a state withdrawing as a member of the compact, the National Popular Vote for President Act will not govern subsequent presidential elections. The Secretary of State is required to provide notice of both when the Act is in effect and when it has been discontinued.

LD 2014 An Act Regarding Spirits Price Review and Recommendations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 632 provides that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations must, beginning October 1, 2024 and every two years thereafter, conduct a review of the retail prices of spirits sold in the State established by the State Liquor and Lottery Commission. The review must include comments provided to the bureau from a public hearing held by the bureau on the retail prices of spirits sold in the State. The bureau must also submit a report of the review to the commission and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over alcoholic beverages matters, which may also include recommendations regarding the establishment of the retail prices of spirits sold in the State.

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Public Law 2023, chapter 632 directs the bureau to adopt routine technical rules regarding the process for developing recommendations to be submitted to the commission regarding the establishment of the retail prices of spirits sold in the State. The rules must include, at a minimum, rules regarding the data and criteria used in developing the recommendations and a process for the bureau to receive public input regarding the recommendation. In adopting the rules, the bureau must hold a public hearing.

It also directs the State Liquor and Lottery Commission, on or before September 1, 2024, to initiate rulemaking required in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-A, section 81, subsection 5 establishing procedures for the conduct of adjudicatory hearings.

LD 2069 An Act to Amend the Ownership Disclosure Requirements for Applicants for Liquor Licenses and Certificates of Approval

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 633 makes the following changes to the laws related to the ownership disclosure requirements for applicants for liquor licenses and certificates of approval.

1. It only requires disclosure of ownership interest of 10% or greater in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought.
2. It requires a business entity that has an ownership interest of 10% or greater in a person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought to disclose any person that holds an ownership interest in that business entity that holds an ownership interest equal to or greater than 10% in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought.
3. It allows business entities with an ownership interest of 10% or greater in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought to attest via affidavit that no person that holds an ownership interest in that business entity holds an ownership interest equal to or greater than 10% in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought.
4. It also requires the applicant for a license or certificate of approval to disclose any person that holds an indirect financial interest in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought and provides a definition of “indirect financial interest.”

Public Law 2023, chapter 633 also permits the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to adopt routine technical rules if needed to administer the application procedure for a license or certificate of approval.