

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**JULY 2000**

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**ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**July 2000**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

- CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*..... House & Senate disagree; bill died
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
- EMERGENCY*..... Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*..... Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
- INDEF PP*..... Bill Indefinitely Postponed
- ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
- OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
- OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
- P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
- RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
- UNSIGNED*..... Bill held by Governor
- VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

*David E. Boulter, Director*  
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LD 2371

**An Act to Allow a State Agency to Accept a Donated Item and Conduct a Raffle to Benefit Fish and Wildlife Conservation Projects**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMALL ETNIER	ONTP	

LD 2371 proposed to allow a state agency to conduct a raffle for a donated item to benefit fish and wildlife conservation projects.

**LD 2407**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating Farm Wineries**

**PUBLIC 535  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRUNO	OTP-AM	H-795

LD 2407 proposed to allow the holder of a farm winery license to fortify wine and import spirits as long as those spirits are used exclusively for the fortification of wine produced by the farm winery license holder. The bill proposed to maintain the current production limitation of 50,000 gallons and prohibits the winery from fortifying the wine beyond an alcohol content of 24%.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-795)** proposed to maintain the provision that allows a farm winery to fortify wine and import spirits for the purposes of fortifying wine. It proposed to amend the liquor laws to clarify the difference between fortified wine and spirits. This amendment also proposed to correct some errors in current law regarding the definition of low-alcohol spirits products.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 535 changes the provisions of a farm winery license. Under this law, the holder of a farm winery license may fortify wine. The licensee may import spirits as long as those spirits are used only for the fortification of wine made by the licensee. PL 1999, chapter 535 also clarifies the difference between fortified wine and spirits and corrects an error in the law regarding the definition and distribution of low-alcohol spirits products.

Public Law 1999, chapter 535 was enacted as an emergency measure effective February 23, 2000.