

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

May 2014

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STAFF:

DANIELLE D. FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

*Committee member for the duration of the absence of Rep. David D. Johnson.

STATE OF MAINE
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

The *Digest* is arranged within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. 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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 126th Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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

provides that if a recipient of slot machine revenue from the casino in Oxford is authorized to conduct its own slot machine facility or casino, any slot machine revenue distribution reverts back to the Oxford Casino. The amendment provides that distributions lost to the Passamaquoddy Tribe due to authorization to operate a casino would instead be deposited to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund. The bill provides that slot machine revenue distributions from a casino operated by the Passamaquoddy Tribe are the same as distributions from the casino in Bangor. The amendment provides that distributions of table game revenues from a Passamaquoddy casino also mirror the distributions from the casino in Bangor. Finally, the amendment removes any restrictions on the dates on which federally recognized Indian tribes in the State authorized to conduct high-stakes beano may operate high-stakes beano games.

LD 1612 An Act To Amend the Veterans' Services Laws

PUBLIC 569

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAULIEU VALENTINO	OTP-AM	H-694 S-543 HILL

This bill requires that the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services have at least one veteran service officer who specializes in female veterans' issues.

The bill also establishes the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory Board.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-694)

This amendment adds several new sections to the bill. It requires the Adjutant General to include in the biennial report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs information on the status of communications with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the impact of environmental hazards on Maine National Guard veterans who were stationed in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada. The amendment provides that a postsecondary educational institution that provides tuition waivers to dependents of veterans may provide tuition waivers beyond 120 credit hours when a degree program requires more than 120 credit hours. The amendment also provides that, if revenues to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund are insufficient to cover the full distribution for veteran service officers at Togus, the available funds will be divided equally between the veterans' service organizations. Finally, the amendment authorizes the transfer of \$15,000 from the Veterans Services program, General Fund account to the State House and Capitol Park Commission program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for design and construction of a plaque to honor veterans of the State in accordance with Resolve 2011, chapter 163.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-543)

This amendment replaces the provision transferring funds from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management with a fund-raising effort by the department and veterans groups.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 569 requires that the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Veterans' Service have at least one veterans service officer who specializes in issues specific to female veterans. Chapter 569 establishes the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory Board. This law also requires the Adjutant General to include in the biennial report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs information on the status of communications with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the impact of environmental hazards on Maine National Guard veterans who were stationed in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada. Chapter 569 provides that a postsecondary educational institution that provides tuition waivers to dependents of veterans may provide tuition waivers beyond 120 credit hours when a degree program requires more than 120 credit hours. It also provides that, if revenues to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund are insufficient to cover the full distribution for veteran service officers at