

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

STATE OF MAINE

126th Legislature SECOND REGULAR SESSION 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 OVERcarried 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 PASSAGEemergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENTlegislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR
LEAVE TO WITHDRAWsponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODYruled 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
<i>P&S XXX chapter # of enacted private & special law</i>
PUBLIC XXX chapter # of enacted public Law
RESOLVE XXX chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINEDLegislature 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

LD 1319 An Act To Authorize a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe in the State ONTP To Benefit from the Operation of an Existing Casino

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BEAR	ONTP	
TUTTLE		

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill provides the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians the same distribution of net slot machine income from casino slot machines as is provided to the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe under current law.

LD 1494 An Act To Alter the Distribution of Maine Clean Election Act Funds ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CAREY	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill decreases the number of qualifying contributions required for legislative and gubernatorial candidates to collect to become certified as Maine Clean Election Act candidates. It provides that candidates may continue to collect qualifying contributions in order to receive supplemental distributions from the Maine Clean Election Fund. The bill establishes a maximum amount of total distributions from the fund for all candidates. Finally, the bill establishes the amount of initial distributions for the 2014 election cycle.

LD 1520An Act To Allow the Passamaquoddy Tribe To Operate Slot Machines inDied BetweenWashington County in Conjunction with High-stakes BeanoHouses

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SOCTOMAH	ONTP	
TUTTLE	OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to accept an application from the Passamaquoddy Tribe to operate slot machines at a gaming facility in Washington County at which high-stakes beano is conducted by the Passamaquoddy Tribe. The bill raises the limit on the number of slot machines allowed in the State by 750 to accommodate the slot machines that may be operated by the Passamaquoddy Tribe. Slot machines operated by the Passamaquoddy Tribe would be subject to the oversight of the Gambling Control Board and subject to the same laws and rules as other slot machines operated in this State. The bill also amends the laws governing high-stakes beano to allow the Passamaquoddy Tribe to operate high-stakes beano on days as determined by the Passamaquoddy Tribe. The provisions of the bill are subject to approval by the voters of Washington County.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-630)

This amendment, which was not adopted, is the minority report of the committee. It authorizes the Passamaquoddy Tribe to be licensed to operate a casino in Washington County at a gaming facility where high-stakes beano operations have been authorized, unlike the bill, which authorized only a slot machine facility. Current law

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

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BEAULIEU	OTP-AM	H-694
VALENTINO		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' Servicse 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