

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2013

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# STATE OF MAINE

126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and 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. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

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 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 Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 9, 2013. 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 1546**

**An Act To Strengthen Maine's Hospitals, Increase Access to Health Care and Provide for a New Spirits Contract**

**VETO  
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP OTP-AM	S-108 JACKSON T

This bill is presented pursuant to Joint Order 2011, S.P. 496, authorizing the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to report out a bill regarding the wholesale spirits contract.

Part A repeals current law that allows for transfer of the State's wholesale liquor business through July 1, 2014. Part A directs the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to develop a request for proposals through the competitive bid process to award two contracts, one for the operation of the State's wholesale liquor business encompassing spirits administration and warehousing and distribution and one for spirits trade marketing. Part A also increases the discount rate at which agency liquor stores purchase spirits for retail sale from the current minimum of 9% of list price to 12% as of July 1, 2014. Part A allows the waiver of a licensing requirement in the event that a retailer with more than five agency liquor stores in this State is purchased or control is transferred to another company not in this State as long as the purchasing or controlling company has held a license to sell beer and wine in another state for at least one year.

Part B authorizes the bond bank, with the written approval of the Governor, to issue liquor operation revenue bonds in an amount up to \$188,500,000. Part B establishes two funds, the Health Care Liability Retirement Fund and the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund. The Health Care Liability Retirement Fund is funded with the revenue from the sale of the bonds and used to pay debts owed by the State for services provided by health care providers prior to December 1, 2012; anything in excess of the amount owed is transferred to the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund. The Liquor Operation Revenue Fund is funded by revenue from the management of wholesale liquor activities; such revenue will be used to pay the principal and interest of the liquor operation revenue bonds as those amounts become due.

During fiscal years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, any excess revenue up to a set amount is transferred to the General Fund to offset the amounts included in budgeted General Fund revenue from liquor sales and operations and to offset additional General Fund costs for liquor enforcement activities; after those transfers in those fiscal years and for the rest of the bond repayment period, excess revenue over the set amount, up to \$7,000,000 per year, is transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Environmental Protection for revolving loan funds for drinking water systems and wastewater treatment, and, if the amount transferred for those loans is limited for federal matching funds purposes, any remainder is transferred to the Department of Transportation for construction of highways and bridges. Any excess funds retained by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank during the bond repayment period must be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund immediately upon retirement of the bonds. Following the retirement of the bonds, excess revenue is also transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.

Part C expands medical coverage under the MaineCare program to adults who qualify under federal law with incomes up to 133% of the nonfarm income official poverty line, with the 5% federal income adjustment for family size, and qualifies Maine to receive federal funding for 100% of the cost of coverage for members who enroll under the expansion. Adults who will be eligible are those 21 to 64 years of age beginning January 1, 2014 and adults 19 and 20 years of age beginning October 1, 2019.

Part D requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to take all steps necessary to secure an enhanced federal match rate for services provided to the MaineCare childless adult waiver population and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and

***Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs***

Human Services by November 1, 2013 on these efforts.

Part E requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of Corrections and the Executive Director of the State Board of Corrections to evaluate the impact of the MaineCare expansion on programs and services that do not currently receive Federal Medical Assistance percentage matching funds or do not qualify for enhanced Federal Medical Assistance percentage matching funds under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, with the goal of identifying and maximizing General Fund savings. Part E requires a report by March 1, 2014 to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety on the amount of General Fund savings resulting from the MaineCare expansion. The report must include the amount of savings realized during fiscal year 2013-14 by service area or program and the amount of savings projected to be achieved during the remainder of that fiscal year and during fiscal year 2014-15. Part E requires the State Budget Officer to calculate the amount of savings that applies against each General Fund account for all departments and agencies from savings associated with the MaineCare expansion and to transfer the amounts by financial order upon the approval of the Governor. It requires the State Controller to transfer any remaining savings to the MaineCare Stabilization Fund. Part E requires the State Budget Officer to provide a report of the transferred amounts to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs no later than March 1, 2014.

Part F provides funding for positions in the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Family Independence.

Part G removes the administration of the sale of fortified wine by the State, beginning July 1, 2014.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-96)**

This amendment, which was not adopted, is the minority amendment to the bill reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs regarding the wholesale spirits contract.

This amendment removes those parts of the bill related to MaineCare expansion.

**Senate Amendment "C" (S-108)**

This amendment, which was not adopted, removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

**LD 1548 An Act To Support Maine Businesses by Authorizing Certain Brewing Partnerships**

**PUBLIC 345  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND	OTP-AM	S-252

This bill clarifies that the laws governing the transfer of liquor licenses do not apply to alternating brewery proprietorships regulated by the United States Department of the Treasury, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-252)**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment establishes a license for a tenant brewer, which is a brewer that produces malt liquor at the manufacturing facility of another licensed brewer. A tenant brewer is licensed simply for the production of malt liquor and is not granted privileges extended to the host brewer, such as operation of an on-site retail store or offering on-site taste-testing for the public. Under the amendment, a host brewer may have only one tenant brewer operating at its facility. The amendment also clarifies that tenant brewers are authorized to take part in beer and wine taste-tasting festivals. The amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency