

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<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**

August 2017

**STAFF:**

DANIELLE FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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## 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 128<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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

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 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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*

collected by others comply with the requirements of the Maine Clean Election Act.

Resolve 2017, chapter 13 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 7, 2017.

**LD 465      An Act To Assist Veterans in Their Applications for Service-related Benefits      Died Between Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY N GOLDEN J	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to provide all veterans in the State the opportunity to have their claims represented by the bureau acting under a power of attorney when filing for service-related benefits to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans' service organizations and other organizations dedicated to serving veterans.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-168)**

This amendment, the minority report, provides that the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services is required to represent all veterans in filing their initial claims for service-related benefits to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill applies this requirement to all claims for service-related benefits and includes claims made to other veterans' service organizations.

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 496      An Act To Update Maine's Veterans' Benefits Eligibility Requirements      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KINNEY J	ONTP	

This bill expands eligibility for admission to Maine Veterans' Homes to residents of Maine who served at least 180 days in the Maine National Guard during a federally recognized war period.

**LD 510      An Act To Create Fairness in Gaming License Fees for Small Nonprofit Organizations      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARPENTER M	ONTP	

This bill reduces by 75% the annual fee for a license to conduct games of chance and games of cards, including tournament games, for organizations with net revenues from those activities of less than \$10,000 for the prior year.

**LD 543      An Act Regarding Political Action Committee Expenditures      PUBLIC 98**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI L	OTP-AM	H-93