

# 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*

**LD 1208     An Act To Amend the Veterans Service Laws**

**Died On  
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI L	OTP-AM	H-140

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing veterans' services.

1. It changes the name of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services.
2. It removes the authority of the bureau to provide grants of temporary and emergency cash assistance to veterans. It authorizes the bureau to accept money to provide financial assistance to veterans and to award grants to organizations that provide assistance to veterans such as housing or emergency assistance.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-140)**

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill. The bill repeals current law governing how the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services issues temporary financial assistance to veterans in financial crises and in its place authorizes the bureau to provide grants to private organizations for the purpose of providing financial assistance to veterans. The amendment strikes that provision and establishes an account within the bureau for the purpose of issuing temporary emergency financial assistance to veterans and provides for a transfer of \$375,000 from the administrative account of the bureau to the Other Special Revenue Funds account established by the amendment. The amendment adds a revision clause to change the name of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services throughout the Maine Revised Statutes.

**LD 1210     An Act Regarding the Maine Clean Election Fund**

**Died On  
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM ONTP	H-185

This bill is submitted by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

This bill increases the transfer from the General Fund to the Maine Clean Election Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 from \$3,000,000 to \$6,000,000 with \$3,000,000 to be transferred on or before January 1, 2018 and \$3,000,000 to be transferred on or before May 30, 2018. It decreases by \$1,300,000, from \$3,000,000 to \$1,700,000, the transfer from the General Fund to the Maine Clean Election Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-185)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.