

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2019

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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 129th 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 129th Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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

educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or veterans' organization that seeks to obtain a registration to conduct beano or bingo must be a bona fide nonprofit organization.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 56 removes the requirement in current law that beano or bingo games conducted by an organization such as a volunteer fire department, agricultural fair association or nonprofit association must be conducted entirely by members of the organization. The beano or bingo games must be conducted under the exclusive control of an adult member of the organization, who may be assisted by other individuals. A "member" of an organization is defined as an individual duly admitted as a member according to the laws, rules, regulations, ordinances or bylaws governing the organization.

Public Law 2019, chapter 56 also makes a technical change to the laws governing beano and bingo to clarify that a charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or veterans' organization that seeks to obtain a registration to conduct beano or bingo games must be a bona fide nonprofit organization.

LD 171 Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Project To Evaluate and Address the CARRIED OVER
Transportation Needs of Maine's Veterans

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHEATS B CARSON B	OTP-AM	H-116

This resolve establishes a 30-month pilot project in Oxford, Franklin and Androscoggin counties to provide transportation to veterans and their caregivers or dependents to and from employment or employment-related services, medical appointments, mental health services, social services and community activities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-116)

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This resolve was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 184 An Act To Amend the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Coordination PUBLIC 504
Program EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVEAU J FARRIN B	OTP-AM	H-117 S-325 BREEN C

This bill repeals and replaces the provisions of law regarding veterans' homelessness prevention coordination. Unlike current law, which requires the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans Services to establish a single partnership to conduct the program with a national veterans services organization that has been in existence for at least 30 years, the bill allows the director to establish multiple partnerships with human services-based veterans organizations that have been active in the State for at least two years, with priority given to organizations founded, chartered or organized in Maine. It changes the order of priorities for the partnerships, prioritizing identifying and securing temporary or permanent living space for veterans within the veterans' communities over conducting annual outreach events. It also establishes a nonlapsing fund to support services for homeless veterans and directs Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Community Development to distribute any funds.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-117)

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This amendment strikes and replaces the bill and does the following:

1. Directs the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to establish a program of partnerships, through one or more collaborative agreements, with human services-based volunteer organizations to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and coordinate efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness among veterans in this State;
2. Provides that one of the priorities of the partnerships is to provide reimbursement to human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans pursuant to collaborative agreements;
3. Authorizes the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to adopt rules necessary to implement this partnership program, including to define "veterans" for purposes of the program, to govern collaborative agreements with human services-based volunteer organizations and to govern the reimbursement of organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans through disbursements from the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund;
4. Establishes the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund and provides that it is to be used to reimburse human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and to otherwise carry out the purposes of the partnership program;
5. Provides \$600,000 in annual, ongoing funding for reimbursement to human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans;
6. Creates two new positions in the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to help administer this partnership program; and
7. Includes an emergency preamble and clause.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-325)

This amendment reduces the ongoing funding provided in the appropriations and allocations section to \$100,000 per year and, instead of creating two new positions in the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, it creates one new part-time position to help administer the partnership program.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 504 does the following:

1. Directs the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to establish a program of partnerships, through one or more collaborative agreements, with human services-based volunteer organizations to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and coordinate efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness among veterans in this State;
2. Provides that one of the priorities of the partnerships is to provide reimbursement to human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans pursuant to collaborative agreements;
3. Authorizes the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to adopt rules necessary to implement this partnership program, including to define "veterans" for purposes of the program, to govern collaborative agreements with human services-based volunteer organizations and to govern the reimbursement of organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans through disbursements from the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund;
4. Establishes the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund and provides that it is to be used to reimburse human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

to otherwise carry out the purposes of the partnership program; and

5. Provides \$100,000 in annual, ongoing funding for reimbursement to human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and creates a new part-time position in the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to help administer this partnership program.

Public Law 2019, chapter 504 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 28, 2019.

**LD 186 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Died Between
To Specify the Qualifications of Electors Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FAULKINGHAM B GUERIN S	ONTP OTP-AM	

This resolution proposes to amend Article II, section 1 of the Constitution of Maine to specify that only a person who is a citizen of the United States may vote in a state, county or municipal or other local election. Compare LD 1372.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-531)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note. This amendment was adopted in the Senate but not in the House.

**LD 202 An Act To Increase the Required Number of Qualifying Contributions Accepted Majority
Gubernatorial Candidates Must Obtain To Qualify as Maine Clean (ONTP) Report
Election Act Candidates**

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

This bill increases from 3,200 to 6,000 the number of qualifying contributions a gubernatorial candidate must collect from registered voters to be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-15)

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

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 211 An Act To Open Maine's Primaries and Permit Unenrolled Voters To Accepted Majority
Cast Ballots in Primary Elections (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ACKLEY K CHENETTE J	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election without having to enroll in a political party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary election.