

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

STAFF:

JANET STOCCO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
DANIEL TARTAKOFF, 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

129TH 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 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

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
To Specify the Qualifications of Electors Died Between
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
Gubernatorial Candidates Must Obtain To Qualify as Maine Clean
Election Act Candidates Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<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
Cast Ballots in Primary Elections Accepted Majority
(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.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Committee Amendment "A" (H-312)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, retains the provisions of the bill that allow an unenrolled voter to vote in a single party's primary election without having to enroll in a political party.

Under current law, a voter who changes enrollment from one political party to another political party may not vote in any caucus, convention or primary election for 15 days after changing enrollment, unless the voter changes the voter's voting residence at the same time that the voter changes political party enrollment. This amendment similarly prohibits a voter who withdraws from a political party from voting in any caucus, convention or primary election for 15 days after withdrawing, unless the voter changes the voter's voting residence at the same time that the voter withdraws from a political party.

This amendment also requires an election clerk to record on the incoming voting list which party's primary ballot, if any, is requested by and issued to an unenrolled voter during a primary election. After the primary election, this information must be entered in the central voter registration system.

This amendment further provides that the effective date of this legislation is July 1, 2021.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 217 An Act To Aid Certain Veterans' Organizations

PUBLIC 44

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SYLVESTER M	OTP-AM	H-39 H-61 SYLVESTER M

This bill allows a veterans' organization that has a valid license to sell liquor and is located either in a municipality with fewer than 5,000 residents or on a coastal island that is provided with ferry service pursuant to state law to sell liquor to the general public at the discretion of the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services. Sales to the general public are subject to the time-of-day and seasonal limitations defined at the time of license approval.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-39)

This amendment permits only a licensed veterans' organization that is located on an island off the coast of the State that is provided with ferry service pursuant to state law to sell liquor to the general public at the discretion of and by agreement with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations, instead of the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services.

House Amendment "A" (H-61)

This amendment prohibits smoking on the premises at which a licensed veterans' organization sells liquor to the general public during the time the general public is invited or allowed to be present.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 44 allows a veterans' organization that has a valid license to sell liquor and is located on an coastal island that is provided with ferry service pursuant to state law to sell liquor to the general public at the discretion of and by agreement with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. Sales to the general public are subject to the time-of-day and seasonal limitations defined at the time of license approval and smoking is prohibited on the premises during the time the general public is invited or allowed to be present.