

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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

August 2025

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LD 404 An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Certain Lottery Winner Identities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 74 provides that the identity of a person awarded a lottery prize of \$100,000 or more and the identity of a person who is a participant in the Address Confidentiality Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 90-B awarded a lottery prize of any amount are confidential unless the person awarded such a prize provides written authorization to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations allowing the disclosure of that person's identity. The law authorizes the bureau to disclose the identity of the person to another state agency for purposes authorized under state and federal law and prohibits that state agency from further disclosing the person's identity.

LD 494 An Act to Update and Clarify Certain Provisions of State Liquor and Lottery Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 230 makes multiple changes to the laws governing certain requirements and license provisions administered by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations.

1. It creates a new license type for agency liquor stores that are purveyors of spirits.
2. It amends the definition of "vessel" by reducing the minimum number of passengers a ship must have to be considered a vessel for liquor licensing purposes.
3. It adds licensed restaurants to the entities eligible for an off-premises catering license.
4. It removes the requirement that premises holding both an on-premises restaurant or Class A restaurant license and an off-premises retail license must sell food with the purchase of an alcoholic beverage. Instead, the law requires that food be available for free or purchase at all times that liquor is sold for on-premises consumption.
5. It authorizes licensees licensed to sell malt liquor for on-premises or off-premises consumption to also sell low-alcohol spirits products. It also authorizes a licensed in-state wholesaler of malt liquor to sell and distribute low-alcohol spirits products.
6. It authorizes reselling agents to sell fortified wine to retail licensees for on-premises consumption.
7. It allows a manufacturer's designated broker to place mail-in rebates on spirits products.
8. It creates statutory consistency within license types for auditoriums, civic auditoriums, outdoor stadiums and performing arts centers.

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9. It provides that, in order to receive a liquor license, a hotel must have a minimum of four guest rooms and be licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services. It authorizes licensed hotels to permit consumers to transport liquor to individual guest rooms.
10. It amends the bureau's annual reporting requirements to provide statements regarding lottery operations and liquor licensing operations for the preceding fiscal year rather than the calendar year.
11. It provides that, beginning January 1, 2026, a licensee or an applicant for a license may not receive, directly or indirectly, cash or gift cards in any amount. It prohibits the bureau from imposing a limit on the amount of things of value that are in use by a licensee at any one time, as long as the thing of value was given to a licensee in accordance with the law.
12. It allows a wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder, including on behalf of a brand the wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder supplies or manufactures, to enter into advertising and sponsorship agreements with licensed venues. It defines "brand" as a product name of malt liquor, wine or spirit authorized for sale in the State by a wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder. It authorizes naming rights, event sponsorships and co-branded promotions under specified conditions, including reporting requirements, written agreements and safeguards to ensure availability of competing products.
13. It clarifies the ability for restaurants to serve canned cocktails.
14. It amends the section of law governing signage restrictions for liquor licensees.

Public Law 2025, chapter 230 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 10, 2025.

LD 600 An Act to Initiate Recounts in Tied Elections

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 114 requires the Secretary of State to automatically initiate a recount when there is an apparent tie vote in an election. It allows any candidate other than the apparent winner to file a request for a recount with the Secretary of State. It requires the municipal clerk to automatically initiate a recount in the case of a tie vote when a secret ballot is used for the election of town officials or for municipal referenda elections at a town meeting.

LD 631 An Act to Allow a Home Distiller to Distill and Share Homemade Spirituous Liquor

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 313 allows the owner of a home distillery to produce distilled spirits solely for personal use, including, but not limited to, personal consumption or serving the product