

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed  
during the Second Regular or First Special Sessions of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine  
Legislature coming from the

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

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR & FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND  
ENACTED LAWS**

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the Second Regular or First Special Sessions of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died</i>
<i>ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report)</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (R2) is June 30, 2008. The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session (S1) is July 18, 2008.<sup>1</sup> The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills. Any bill summarized in this document having an LD number less than 1932 was a bill carried over from the First Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature.

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<sup>1</sup> The session in which each law was enacted or finally passed (R2 or S1) is included in Appendix C.

## Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

This bill increases from \$500 to \$5,000 the amount of a grant that may be made by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to a veteran who suffers an emergency, such as the loss of that veterans home to fire, flood or hurricane, that is not fully compensable by insurance, or an illness or the illness of an immediate family member or similar emergency. It also provides an appropriation of \$250,000 to fund the grants.

### Committee Amendment "A" (S-468)

This amendment provides criteria for the award of grants under the emergency veterans assistance program. It strikes the increased distribution amounts proposed by the bill. The amendment replaces the appropriations and allocations section of the bill so that the money provided will be used to fund additional veterans services officers.

### Senate Amendment "A" (S-691)

This amendment removes the General Fund appropriation to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management of \$250,000 in fiscal year 2008-09 for a Veterans Services Officer position in Portland, a mobile Veterans Service Officer position, an Office Associate position, and related administrative and operating costs, and instead adds a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$85,000 to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management in fiscal year 2008-09 for a contracted mobile Veterans Service Officer position and related administrative and operating costs and increases the amounts transferred to the General Fund from the Accident, Sickness and Health Insurance Internal Service Fund and the Retiree Health Insurance Internal Service Fund from savings achieved through changes adopted by the State Employee Health Commission by \$117,873 in fiscal year 2008-09.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 678 provides criteria for the award of grants under the emergency veterans assistance program. It also provides for a one-time appropriation of \$85,000 to the Bureau of Veterans Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for a contracted mobile Veterans Services Officer. It also requires a study to determine the need and potential benefits of continuing this position as well as that of a Veterans Services Officer in Portland.

Public Law 2007, chapter 678 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 23, 2008.

### **LD 1987** An Act To Allow Direct-to-consumer Wine Sales

**DIED BETWEEN  
HOUSES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROMLEY	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-575

This bill establishes a new license that allows an out-of-state alcoholic beverage producer, supplier, importer, wholesaler, distributor or retailer to ship wine directly to consumers in Maine. To obtain this non-resident shipper license, the applicant must first obtain a certificate of approval license from the state and show proof of their out-of-state alcoholic beverage license. The registration and annual renewal fee for the non-resident shipper license is \$100.

The bill requires that a person who wishes to have wine directly shipped to them must be at least 21 years of age and register with the Division of Liquor Licensing within the Department of Public Safety. Shipments of wine delivered under a non-resident shipper license are required to be labeled that they contain alcohol and can not be delivered to someone younger than age 21.

The bill requires a non-resident shipper to submit an annual report listing the number of wine bottles shipped during

## Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

the prior calendar year and provides that the the Division of Liquor Licensing may audit the shipper's records at any time. The bill requires a non-resident shipper to pay sales taxes and register with the Bureau of Revenue Services as a retailer. Finally, the bill requires the adoption of rules to allow for compliance with Maine's bottle deposit law.

### Committee Amendment "A" (S-575)

This amendment strikes the section of the bill that establishes a nonresident shipper's license and replaces it with a section that establishes a direct shipper license. A direct shipper license allows in-state or out-of-state licensed entities to ship up to 12 cases of wine to recipients who are 21 years of age or older. The direct shipper or 3rd-party carrier contracted by the shipper must determine proof of age in order to make a delivery. Wine shipments must be conspicuously labeled that they contain alcohol and may be delivered only to a person 21 years of age or older. The amendment clarifies that a direct shipper is required to pay all applicable taxes, including excise and premium taxes on wine. The amendment also provides greater detail in what is required to be reported by direct shippers and lists specific penalties for specific violations of laws governing the direct shipment of wine.

### LD 2015 An Act To Ensure Integrity in Financing Publicly Funded Campaigns

PUBLIC 567

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS J	OTP-AM	H-793

This bill prohibits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate from spending Maine Clean Election Act funds on himself or herself, a member of the candidates immediate family or a business affiliated with the candidate. It also prohibits the use of Maine Clean Election Act funds to pay or reimburse a member of the candidates immediate family for services provided to the candidates campaign.

### Committee Amendment "A" (H-793)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment prohibits the use of funds from the Maine Clean Election Fund as payment to a member of a candidate's household, unless the candidate provides evidence that the payment was for a legitimate campaign expense for goods and services priced at a fair market value and that the household member provides those goods or services as a regular part of their occupation or business. The amendment also requires that candidates who are not certified as Maine Clean Election Act candidates disclose when they use campaign funds to pay a household member for campaign-related goods or services.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 567 prohibits the use of funds from the Maine Clean Election Fund as payment to a member of a candidate's household, unless the candidate provides evidence that the payment was for a legitimate campaign expense for goods and services priced at a fair market value and that the household member provides those goods or services as a regular part of their occupation or business. It also requires that candidates who are not certified as Maine Clean Election Act candidates disclose when they use campaign funds to pay a household member for campaign-related goods or services.

### LD 2068 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Lobbyist Disclosure

PUBLIC 630

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-895

This bill makes changes to the laws regarding lobbyist disclosure procedures. It eliminates from the definition of "expenditure" compensation paid to a lobbyist and the costs of so-called "gross roots" lobbying. It adds the term