

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

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

July 2009

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# STATE OF MAINE

124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## 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 First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</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:

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 12, 2009. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

# Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

## Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 24 directs the Secretary of State to administer a pilot program for early voting that would allow selected municipalities to conduct early voting at polling places up to 10 days prior to the November 3, 2009 election day and report back to the committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs by January 15, 2010.

**LD 140**      **An Act To Prohibit a Maine Clean Election Act Candidate from Participating in Political Action Committee Funding**      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HARLOW	ONTP	

This bill prohibits Maine Clean Election Act candidates from participating in political action committees that are established to influence the election or defeat of legislative candidates or to support that candidate's effort to be elected to a legislative leadership position.

**LD 150**      **Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State To Conduct a Pilot Program for Ongoing Absentee Voter Status**      **RESOLVE 94**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HINCK SULLIVAN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-182

This bill provides a process for voters to request ongoing absentee voter status, which allows them to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide election until the status is terminated.

### Committee Amendment "A" (H-182)

This amendment replaces the bill. It establishes a resolve to direct the Secretary of State to conduct a pilot program regarding establishing ongoing absentee voter status.

## Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 94 directs the Secretary of State to conduct a pilot program for giving voters ongoing absentee voter status. The pilot must include 3 statewide elections in November 2009, June 2010 and November 2010. The Secretary of state is required to submit a report regarding the pilot program by February 15, 2011.

**LD 193**      **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Tournament Games**      **PUBLIC 457**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CROCKETT P	OTP-AM	H-84 S-323 DIAMOND

## *Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs*

Current law limits to 100 the number of players allowed to participate in a tournament game such as Texas Hold 'Em. This bill eliminates the limit of 100 players and instead provides that the number of players may not exceed the legal maximum allowable occupancy for that venue. In addition, current law requires that 75% of the entry fees be paid as prizes to the winners of the tournament. This bill instead provides that no less than 75% of the entry fees be paid to the winners.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-84)**

This amendment strikes the provision of the bill that permitted an unlimited number of players to participate in a tournament game as long as that number was within the allowable maximum occupancy for that venue. The amendment provides that tournament games conducted on premises owned by the licensee may have up to 300 players. The amendment also provides for a graduated tournament game license fee based on the number of players to take part in the tournament. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

### **Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-323)**

This amendment strikes the appropriations and allocations section.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2009, chapter 457 amends the games of chance laws to provide that tournament games conducted on premises owned by the licensee may have up to 300 players. It also provides for a graduated tournament game license fee based on the number of players to take part in the tournament.

**LD 204      An Act Regarding the Conducting of Games of Chance by Nonprofit Organizations      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHAW BRYANT B	ONTP	

This bill provides that a local chapter of a statewide nonprofit organization that wishes to conduct a game of chance need only provide the date and location where the game of chance will be conducted. The statewide nonprofit organization must provide a copy of its bylaws, a list of all local chapters, the name of the local chapter wishing to conduct a game of chance and the names of the officers of the local chapter in order for the local chapter to be eligible for a game of chance license with these reduced requirements.

**LD 205      An Act To Repeal the Maine Clean Election Act      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CEBRA	ONTP	

This bill repeals the Maine Clean Election Act.