

# 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  
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## 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

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<br>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.